

Attack Dogs



A sign promoting the Vice Presidential debate is held up at a rally on the Centre College campus, site of the debate, Thursday, Oct. 11, 2012, in Danville, Ky. Vice President Joe Biden faced Republican vice presidential candidate, Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., in Thursday's debate.

(AP Photo/Eric Gay)

Biden, Ryan butt heads in heated VP debate

Associated Press

DANVILLE, Kentucky (AP)

— Vice President Joe Biden and the man who wants to succeed him, Republican Paul Ryan, faced off Thursday in a debate that gained new importance in the race for the White House after President Barack Obama flubbed last week's confrontation against Mitt Romney.

The stakes aren't generally this high in vice presidential debates. But this one offered Biden an opportunity to undo some of the damage from Obama's lackluster performance and restore energy to the Democratic campaign less than a month before the Nov. 6 election. Ryan, a congressman from Wisconsin who is a generation younger than

his opponent, tried to hold on to the Republicans' sudden rise in the polls. Last week's presidential debate erased Obama's advantage and boosted Romney nationally and — more importantly — in such battleground states as Ohio. That is especially relevant as the U.S. president is not elected by the nationwide popular vote,

but in a series of state-by-state contests. About 41 states are seen as essentially already decided for Romney or Obama, leaving nine up for grabs, including Ohio. No Republican has ever won the White House without carrying that state. The two candidates for vice president offer a striking contrast. Biden, at 69, is a former

chairman of the Senate of Foreign Relations Committee and a skilled debater. His last such debate was four years ago, against then-Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin. But he also is prone to gaffes, though these tend to happen more when he is speaking off-the-cuff.

Continued on next page



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Biden, Ryan butt heads in heated VP debate

Continued from front

Ryan, 42, has suggested his youth will help him connect with voters, but he has a tendency to get deep into policy details could lose the audience's attention. Unlike Biden, Ryan is not a foreign policy expert but was required to stand his ground in territory that is more familiar to the veteran senator.

The 90-minute debate — the only vice presidential one, — was moderated by Martha Raddatz, senior foreign affairs correspondent for ABC News, and covered both domestic and foreign policy. There was no shortage of material to discuss.

New unemployment figures released last week showed a drop in joblessness, in good news for Obama and Biden. But Americans are worried and



upset by the slow recovery. Obama's administration also has been placed on the defensive recently by conflicting accounts about the deadly attack on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi, Libya, last month.

The debate also came just two days after Romney said he would not pursue any abortion-related legislation if elected president. He later said he opposed abortion and his campaign said he would support legislation to provide greater protection to life. □

Supporters wave signs during a rally outside the Norton Center on the campus of Centre College, site of the Vice Presidential debate, Thursday, Oct. 11, 2012, in Danville, Kentucky. Vice President Joe Biden faced Republican vice presidential candidate, Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., in Thursday's debate. (AP Photo/Charlie Neibergall)

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Police: Search continues for missing Colorado girl

P. SOLOMON BANDA

Associated Press

WESTMINSTER, Colo. (AP) —

Colorado police looking for a 10-year-old girl who disappeared on her walk to school have found a body in a park, but are not saying whether it is linked to the case and noted Thursday that officers are still searching for her.

The discovery of the body is the latest turn in the disappearance of Jessica Ridgeway that has seen police look for clues in a reported sighting in a car with Colorado plates in Maine and a Wyoming abduction. The FBI said Thursday that abduction was unrelated.

Police spokesman Trevor Materasso said the body "is not intact," and that has slowed the work of identification. Materasso said no other information would be released until Friday, and he left a brief midday news conference without answering any questions. Police earlier declined to say whether the body was that of a child.

The body was found late Wednesday at Patridge Park in park in the Denver suburb of Arvada, about seven miles from where Jessica disappeared in the nearby suburb of Westminster on Oct. 5.

Materasso said investigators were processing evidence from the park and that no additional information was available. He left without answering questions.



This image provided by the Westminster Colorado Police Department shows Jessica Ridgeway. Colorado police looking for the 10-year-old girl who disappeared on her walk to school have found a body in a park, but are not saying whether it is linked to the case and noted Thursday that officers are still searching for her.

(AP Photo)

In tweets, Westminster police said investigators had worked overnight to identify the body. Officers searched more of the park Thursday as well as areas closer to Jessica's home. Police said photo radar vans — normally used to detect and photograph speeding vehicles — were being used to monitor some streets around the girl's house.

Police have ruled out her parents — Sarah Ridgeway, who lives in Colorado, and Jeremiah Bryant, who lives in Missouri. Authorities believe Jessica was kidnapped by an "unknown suspect."

Jessica's mother last saw her daughter walking to school. The girl never arrived, setting off a frantic

search by hundreds of law enforcement officials and residents.

Aurelio Florez, who has lived in Jessica's neighborhood for six years, said it was shocking that Jessica could have vanished during a two-block walk to a park where she usually met friends before continuing on to school.

"You can see the park from her front door," he said.

Fliers about the fifth-grader were posted on nearly every house in her neighborhood of modest, two-story homes with single-car garages. Purple ribbons, a symbol of hope for her return, were tied around trees.

It was a lively area where children played outdoors, said another neighbor,

Luis Pena, but since Jessica disappeared, parents are keeping their children inside and people look at each other with suspicion.

"Nobody trusts anybody anymore," he said.

The only real clue police have revealed in Jessica's disappearance is the dis-

covery over the weekend of a backpack and water bottle that she had with her when she disappeared. Police won't discuss what was found in the bag or test results on it.

The items were found in the town of Superior, some six miles from her home. □



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CDC:

US meningitis outbreak spreads, death toll at 14

LAURAN NEERGAARD
MIKE STOBBE

AP Medical Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal health officials have tracked down 12,000 of the

and Prevention said as the death toll reached 14. Of the 170 people sickened in the outbreak, all but one have a rare fungal form of meningitis after receiv-



Wayne Reed, left, and his wife Diana, who died from meningitis that is suspected to have been caused by a steroid shot. Diana is one of more than 130 people to have contracted meningitis, 14 of whom have died, in a national outbreak from a tainted drug used in spinal injections for back and neck pain.

roughly 14,000 people who may have received contaminated steroid shots in the nation's growing meningitis outbreak, warning Thursday that patients will need to keep watch for symptoms of the deadly infection for months.

"We know that we are not out of the woods yet," Dr. J. Todd Weber of the Centers for Disease Control

ing suspect steroid shots for back pain, the CDC said. The other case is an ankle infection discovered in Michigan; steroid shots also can be given to treat aching knees, shoulders or other joints.

Fungus has been found in at least 50 vials of an injectable steroid medication made at a specialty compounding pharmacy

in Massachusetts, investigators said. Health authorities haven't yet said how they think the medication was contaminated, but they have ruled out other suspects — other products used in administering the shots — and the focus continues to be on that pharmacy, the New England Compounding Center.

Compounding pharmacies traditionally supply products that aren't commercially available, unlike the steroid at issue in the outbreak. And Dr. Madeleine Biondolillo of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health said it appears the company violated state law governing those pharmacies, which aren't supposed to do large-scale production like a drug manufacturer. Instead, they're supposed to produce medication for patient-specific prescriptions, she said.

Company officials weren't immediately available to comment Thursday but earlier this week declined comment except to say they were cooperating with the investigation. □

US targeting finances of violent MS-13 gang

ALICIA A. CALDWELL
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration declared the ultra-violent street gang MS-13 to be an

gang has expanded far beyond its initial roots. Members are accused of major crimes including murder, kidnapping, prostitution, drug smuggling and



This photo provided by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement, taken in Washington, shows an example of a tattoo of the gang Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13). The Obama administration has labeled a violent Central American street gang as an international criminal organization subject to U.S. government sanctions, the first time this designation has been given to such a group.

(AP Photo/Michael Johnson, ICE)

international criminal group on Thursday, an unprecedented crackdown targeting the finances of the sprawling U.S. and Central American gang infamous for hacking and stabbing victims with machetes.

The Treasury Department formally designated MS-13, or Mara Salvatrucha, a transnational criminal organization. The aim is to freeze it out of the U.S. financial system and seize what are estimated to be millions of dollars in criminal profits from drug and human smuggling and other crimes committed in this country.

The gang was founded by immigrants fleeing El Salvador's civil war more than two decades ago. Its founders took lessons learned from that brutal conflict to the streets of Los Angeles and built a reputation as one of the most ruthless and sophisticated street gangs, according to Immigration and Customs Enforcement Special Agent Jason Shatarsky.

With as many as 10,000 members in 46 states, the

human trafficking.

The group established itself in Los Angeles before spreading across the U.S., said Shatarsky, an MS-13 expert assigned to ICE's national gang unit. The group's violence — using a machete to hack a victim to death or shooting someone in the head in broad daylight, for instance — surprised authorities and even rival gangs.

"They saw a level of violence that hadn't been seen before,"

Shatarsky said, adding that as the gang has expanded it has also become more sophisticated than many rivals.

The gang, which is allied with several of Mexico's warring drug cartels, has a strong presence in Southern California, Washington and Northern Virginia, all areas with substantial Salvadoran populations. Shatarsky said its members target residents and business owners for extortion, among other crimes. The gang is also active throughout Central America and in parts of Mexico. □

Fort Hood suspect's beard raises new bias questions

DAVID DISHNEAU
Associated Press

FORT BELVOIR, Virginia (AP)

— An Army appeals court on Thursday questioned whether a military judge exceeded his authority in ordering the suspect in the 2009 shooting rampage that killed 13 people at a Texas army post to remove his beard or be forcibly shaved.

Judges on the U.S. Army Court of Criminal Appeals in northern Virginia also delved into a claim by Maj. Nidal Hasan's lawyers that the military judge who issued the order is biased and should be replaced.

The American-born Muslim psychiatrist claims he grew his beard for religious reasons.

Hasan's murder trial in Texas is on hold while his lawyers pursue the appeal. Hasan, 42, faces the death penalty or life in prison without parole if convicted in the Nov. 5, 2009, attack that killed 13 people and wounded more than two dozen others at Fort Hood, Texas, about 130 miles (209 kilometers) southwest of Dallas.

The rampage was the worst mass shooting ever at a U.S. military installation.

Hasan's attorneys also

want the appeals court to overturn six contempt-of-court rulings Col. Gregory Gross issued against Hasan for having a beard at pre-trial hearings this past summer, when he first showed up in court with facial hair. Army grooming standards prohibit beards but allow for religious exceptions. Gross denied Hasan's request for such an exception. He found that Hasan's claims of religious sincerity did not outweigh prosecutor's arguments that Hasan grew the beard just before his August trial date so witnesses wouldn't be able to identify him in court. □



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Armstrong marches on the day after report



Seven-time Tour de France champion Lance Armstrong grimacing during a news conference after the Memorial Hermann Ironman 70.3 Texas triathlon in Galveston, Texas.

(AP Photo/Houston Chronicle, Michael Paulsen)

EDDIE PELLIS AP National Writer

Lance Armstrong tried to treat it like any other day. The world-renowned cyclist was at the office of his cancer-fighting foundation, "talking about next week's events and plans for 2013," he said on Twitter. But Thursday was different. It was the day after the evidence came out — a voluminous report from the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency that painted him as a drug-using bully at the center of what the group called the biggest doping conspiracy ever concocted in sports. The fallout from the agency's version of events, and its raft of supporting documents, started coming down in small bites from friends, foes, supporters and detractors around the globe.

Twitter posts with the "livestrong" hash tag —

the name of Armstrong's charitable foundation — seemed to be running about 50-50, from those who thought the USADA report cemented Armstrong as a fraud, to those who didn't care and admire him for the millions of dollars he has raised for cancer research. Either way, there was no denying the impact of the report, which provides USADA's justification for ordering Armstrong's seven Tour de France titles stripped. The weight of 26 witnesses, including 11 ex-teammates, forced people to reach a conclusion about the rider.

"This is as if Mount Everest just showed up in his front yard," said Daniel Coyle, author of "Lance Armstrong's War" and "The Secret Race," which he wrote with Tyler Hamilton, a former teammate and witness

against Armstrong.

"The detail is crystal clear," Coyle said. "And each of the stories perfectly aligns. The details are so clear, you can't imagine anyone making it up. The voices you hear in the affidavits are remarkable, persuasive, precise and not, in every case, reluctant."

After cancelling an appearance scheduled in Chicago for Friday, Armstrong visited his foundation headquarters in Austin, Texas, for about 30 minutes in the morning, chatting informally with employees and looking for a place to hang a new painting he recently added to his personal art collection. The USADA report did not come up in conversation, foundation spokeswoman Katherine McLane said.

The head of the foundation, Doug Ulman, said he had received several messages of support and Armstrong would carry the banner for the foundation. "He's our biggest advocate and always will be," Ulman said.

Armstrong's support stretched to the other side of the globe.

At the Tour of Beijing, 2008 Olympic road race champion Samuel Sanchez said "until the contrary is proved, he remains innocent." "Lance has overcome many controls and even until today, he has never been found positive in any of them," Sanchez said. "So about all the accusations that have been poured against him, we have to see, what is the goal of all of them, whether it is an economic motive or

they want to harm his image. We still need to wait to see what's the final decision taken by the UCI," the International Cycling Union. UCI will be one of the next major players to act. While USADA says Armstrong's lifetime ban and the stripping of his seven Tour de

France titles is in effect, UCI insists it has a say in that, as well. Long skeptical of the USADA investigation and having made statements sympathetic toward Armstrong, UCI has three weeks to appeal the case to the Court of Arbitration for Sport. □

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In Wisconsin Senate race, partisan lines draw near

MONICA DAVEY

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PEWAUKEE, Wis. — In the battle for control of the Senate, this state would seem to have everything Republicans could dream of: a shift to red up and down the ballot in 2010, a Republican governor who decisively survived a recall effort a few months ago, and a local son turned vice presidential nominee. Yet with Election Day fast approaching, Rep. Tammy Baldwin, a Democrat who has been rated among the most liberal members of Congress, finds herself about even in the polls with the Republican candidate, former Gov. Tommy Thompson, who once ran for president, and who not long ago was widely presumed to walk away with the open Senate seat. Even Baldwin acknowledged the other day that she had been taken by surprise — “I pinched myself and said, ‘What?’” — when polls began tipping her way. But the election here is a reminder that advertising matters (no matter how much voters complain about it), that people make choices on individual candidates (not only party ideology), and perhaps most of all, that Wisconsin,

like some of the other Midwestern states that moved toward the Republicans in 2010, may remain relatively evenly split along partisan lines. “That’s where we’re really misunderstood,” said Jef Hall, Winnebago County’s Democratic Party chairman, pointing to his county seat, Oshkosh, among a long list of communities that can be tipped. “When it comes down to it, we’re really a 50-50 city in a 50-50 county in a 50-50 state.” The race for the seat being vacated by longtime Sen. Herb Kohl, a Democrat, (“Tammy versus Tommy,” in the shorthand of Wisconsin) offers nothing if not striking distinctions.

Baldwin is a strong backer of President Barack Obama’s policies, while Thompson, who served as health and human services secretary under President George W. Bush, denounces the new health care law and warns that the country is sliding miserably toward disaster.

Baldwin, 50, who would be the first female senator from Wisconsin and the first openly gay senator, won her first election to Congress in 1998, the last year that Thompson, who was elected to four terms as governor, appeared on

the ballot in Wisconsin. Baldwin is soft-spoken to the point that listeners must actually lean in at times to

consin, conducted in the last week, showed Baldwin favored by 48 percent of those polled compared

Baldwin had no primary challenger, so while the Thompson campaign tried to refill its coffers, her campaign was quickly able to run a series of mostly unanswered television ads.

“It’s like standing in a boxing match with your hands tied behind you, and just getting slugged until they get tired of hitting you,” Thompson said in a recent interview. “Even Vince Lombardi, after four weeks of that kind of barrage, would have weakened,” he continued, adding that his campaign has since raised enough money to return to the air.

Beneath all of this is the question of where Wisconsin, arguably the most politically volatile state in recent years, stands now.

While the new poll said that Obama has a narrow edge in the state, Republicans here note that he and his surrogates have traveled to Wisconsin lately. They argue that while Democrats have won the presidential contest here since 1988, Rep. Paul Ryan’s presence on the Republican ticket makes a difference. “He’s our rock star: so genuine and so darn nice,” said Mike Herl, chairman of the Dane County Republican Party. □



Former Wisconsin Gov. Tommy Thompson, a Republican running for Senate, during a campaign event in Pewaukee, Wis. Oct. 10, 2012. Thompson is about even in the polls with his Democratic opponent, Rep. Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.), a reminder that the state may remain relatively evenly split along partisan lines.
(Darren Hauck/The New York Times)

hear her. Thompson, 70, on a recent evening stood before a crowd in this Milwaukee suburb at an annual event known as “Grazing With the Elephants” pounding on a lectern, roaring “Isn’t it great to be a Republican?” and, threatening to drop to the ground to do push-ups.

A Quinnipiac University/New York Times/CBS News poll of likely voters in Wis-

consin, conducted in the last week, showed Baldwin favored by 48 percent of those polled compared with 46 percent for Thompson, a difference that falls within the margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points. The results are a switch from August, when polls showed Thompson ahead. That was the month he emerged from a fierce, crowded and costly Republican primary with about 34 percent of the vote — and a debt of about \$600,000, he said.



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American Airlines stumbles on path to recovery

DAVID KOENIG
SCOTT MAYEROWITZ
AP Airline Writers

DALLAS (AP) — Just weeks ago, American Airlines was working its way through bankruptcy court, on

on American with this ad: "We let low fares loose, not seats."

American's on-time record fell well below its competitors, and its cancellations were the highest of any

third-largest U.S. airline — has reported larger gains in a key revenue-per-mile statistic than rivals United Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Southwest Airlines and US Airways. But its profit mar-

sengers a refund if their flight is delayed more than two hours and they choose not to fly. They also can switch to another American flight at no charge or fly on another airline, if seats are available.

Robert Mittelstaedt, an aviation expert and dean of the business school at Arizona State University, says it's critical that American show more empathy for passengers. "The biggest problem they have right now is the potential to lose their most-frequent fliers," he says.

American spokesman Mike Trevino says the company "communicated what we knew as soon as we knew it. As for reassuring passengers, the best way to do

that is to identify the cause of a problem and fix it. That's what happened."

American has a long history of problems — it lost about \$10 billion from 2001 to 2010. The airline's recent troubles began Sept. 4, when a federal bankruptcy court judge let it throw out the pilots' contract and set its own pay and work rules. Almost immediately, delays started to pile up as some pilots called in sick or wrote up more maintenance issues. Some, the airline suggested, were trivial. A flight from Philadelphia to Miami was delayed 80 minutes because of missing springs in the co-pilot's seat. Pilots' union officials denied an organized slowdown. □



An American Airlines aircraft taking off at Miami International Airport in Miami. Just weeks ago, American Airlines was working its way through bankruptcy court, on schedule for one of the fastest turnarounds in aviation history, but then, domestic traffic fell by 7.1 percent in September from the same month a year earlier. No other major airline experienced a drop like that.

(AP Photo/Alan Diaz)

schedule for one of the fastest turnarounds in aviation history. Planes were full. Revenue was pouring in. Then seemingly overnight, American became the butt of jokes from Facebook to late-night TV.

A slowdown that American blamed on pilots caused massive delays and cancellations. Then rows of seats came loose on a few planes. Passengers wondered if they'd get where they were going on time — and in one piece.

"American Airlines has a new slogan," comedian Jay Leno joked on NBC's "The Tonight Show." "Your seat is free to move about the cabin."

Some travel experts advised booking on other airlines to avoid getting stranded on American. Low-cost rival Spirit Airlines picked

airline. There are signs that the trouble — which began in September when American threw out the union contract of its pilots — is causing passengers to switch. Domestic traffic fell by 7.1 percent in September from the same month a year earlier. No other major airline experienced a drop like that.

Thomas W. Horton, CEO of American and parent AMR Corp., acknowledges that a few weeks in September were "very difficult on our customers." American has said little else to ease customers' concerns.

Horton and other executives instead steer conversations toward the airline's recent financial performance, which by many measures has led the industry. For six straight months, American — the

gin continues to lag.

AMR, which filed for bankruptcy protection in late November, could still emerge from bankruptcy early in 2013. That would mark a quicker turnaround than the 38 months it took United and the 19 months for Delta. Such speed would impress the bankruptcy court, creditors and potential investors, but it wouldn't boost Jason Case's confidence in the beleaguered airline.

"I haven't scheduled any of my upcoming flights on American because of the uncertainty," says Case, who owns a consulting business in Brookhaven, Mississippi, and usually flies twice a week on either American or Southwest. He says he booked on Delta and Southwest instead.

American has offered pas-

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Top Yemeni security official for US Embassy killed

**AHMED AL HAJ
Associated Press**

SANAA, Yemen (AP) — A drive-by shooting Thursday that killed a top Yemeni security official who worked at the U.S. Embassy in Sanaa has raised concern that al-Qaida militants here are bouncing back and getting bolder after suffering defeats this year in a U.S.-Yemeni military offensive.

Al-Qaida in Yemen has carried out a string of assassinations of top security and military officials and deadly suicide bombings in recent months. Security officials said they believe it has a hit list to kill more in an attempt to paralyze Yemen's new leadership installed this year and throw the anti-al-Qaida assaults into turmoil.

The new killing also raises the possibility the group could turn its assassination campaign against American interests as well. The group has sought to ride the recent wave of anger against the U.S. over an anti-Islam film by calling for attacks on American and other foreign diplomatic missions.

In Thursday's attack, embassy security official Qassem Aqlani was on his way to work when a masked gunman on a motorcycle opened fire on him and fled the scene, officials said. The attack was near Aqlani's home in western Sanaa, while the embassy is located in the eastern part of the capital. Aqlani,



Yemeni protesters break a window of the U.S. Embassy during a protest in Sanaa, Yemen. A drive-by shooting that killed a top Yemeni security official who worked at the U.S. Embassy in Sanaa Thursday, Oct. 11, 2012 raises concern that al-Qaida militants here are bouncing back and getting bolder after suffering defeats this year in U.S.-Yemeni military offensive. Al-Qaida has carried out a string of assassinations of top government and military officials, reportedly has a hit list to kill more and has called for attacks on U.S. diplomatic missions.

(AP Photo/Hani Mohammed)

who was in his 50s, had been working for the embassy for 11 years, the U.S. State Department said.

Yemeni security officials said the attack was similar to previous assassinations by al-Qaida, although they said it was too early to confirm the group's involvement.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the press. There are increased concerns over security at American embassies in the region after last month's deadly attack by militants against a U.S. diplomatic mission in Benghazi that killed the U.S. ambassador to Libya and three other Americans. Protesters also stormed several U.S. embassies in Arab nations — including the one in Sanaa — in outrage over the film denigrating the Prophet

Muhammad.

An elite team of around 50 U.S. Marines sent to bolster security at the Sanaa embassy after the Sept. 13 attack was scheduled to leave the country later Thursday, Yemeni officials said. It was not clear whether Aqlani's slaying would affect those plans. There was no sign of increased security around the U.S. Embassy in Sanaa, which has already been heavily fortified with new protective measures amid the turmoil surrounding last year's uprising against then-president Ali Abdullah Saleh. Security was tightened even more after the protesters stormed the compound last month. They climbed over the walls, damaged some buildings and took down the U.S. flag before they were driven out by Yemeni soldiers.

Since then, the main road that leads to the embassy is sealed off by cement blocks and three checkpoints limit access, with cars scanned for explosives. Yemeni troops and armored vehicles also are stationed near the building.

But officials said they believe it was not the anti-Islam movie that led to Thursday's killing, but that it was part of al-Qaida's campaign of retaliation for heavy blows the group has suffered in recent months.

Washington considers the Yemen-based al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, or AQAP, to be the most dangerous offshoot of the terror network after it was linked to several attempted attacks on U.S. targets, including the foiled Christmas Day 2009 bombing of an airliner over Detroit and explosives-laden parcels intercepted aboard cargo flights last year. □

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Greek unemployment rises above 25 percent

NICHOLAS PAPHITIS

Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Unemployment in Greece hit a record high of 25.1 percent in July as the country's financial crisis continues to exact its heavy toll, official figures showed Thursday.

All indications are that unemployment in Greece will continue to rise. The economy has shrunk by around a fifth since the recession started in 2008 and youth unemployment has pushed far above 50 percent. The economy is expected to enter a sixth year of recession next year.

"This is a very dramatic result of the recession," said Angelos Tsakanikas, head of research at Greece's IOBE economic research foundation.

The state statistics agency said Greece's unemployment rate rose from 24.8 percent in June. According to European statisticians, that would be the same rate as Spain's in August.

The two countries have the highest unemployment rates among the 17 that use the euro. In August, euro-zone unemployment stood at an average 11.4 percent, itself the highest level since the single currency was launched in 1999.

Greece's statistical authority said 1.26 million Greeks were out of work in July, with more than 1,000 jobs lost every day over the past year. In the worst-affected 15-24 age group, unemployment was 54.2 percent. In July 2008, a year before Greece's acute financial

crisis broke, there were only about 364,000 registered unemployed.

The country's main GSEE labor union said real unemployment is above 30 percent and growing, which it blamed on "violent" government cutbacks. After losing access to international money markets and nearly defaulting on its mountain of debt, Greece has survived on international bailouts since May 2010.

However, solvency comes at a harsh price: To secure and continue receiving the loans, Athens imposed tough austerity measures, slashing incomes and repeatedly increasing taxes, in an attempt to get its public finances in order.

The conservative-led government is currently in negotiations with the coun-

try's creditors over another raft of austerity measures, worth €13.5 billion (\$17.4 billion) over the next two years, so it can get the next batch of bailout funds.



High school children protest outside the finance ministry against state funding cuts to municipalities that have disrupted school bus services, in Athens on Thursday, Oct. 11, 2012. Greece's coalition government is struggling to meet demands by international rescue creditors for a massive new austerity cuts required for continued payment of emergency loans. Unemployment in Greece hit a record high of 25.1 percent in July, official figures showed Thursday.

(AP Photo/Dimitri Messinis)

Greece has to satisfy certain periodic conditions in order to qualify for the handouts.

Without the money, Greece won't be able to

pay all its financial obligations and may end up defaulting on its debts and leaving the euro.

The cutbacks have triggered deep resentment among a population reeling under nearly three years of austerity. GSEE and other main unions have called a new general strike and demonstration next week.

"During a time when unemployment is strangling Greek society and the recession is at 7 percent, it is at least provocative that (bailout creditors are) focusing on further bleeding workers and pensioners," GSEE said in a statement.

Finance Minister Yiannis Stournaras was holding talks Thursday evening with representatives of the European Union, International Monetary Fund and European Central Bank — the so-called troika. □

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UN cites “deeply troubling” Iranian rights violations

PETER JAMES SPIELMANN
Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The U.N.'s human rights expert on Iran is condemning the Islamic Republic's reliance on stoning as a form of capital punishment, citing that as just one of a number of “deeply troubling” Iranian rights violations, many of which are “systemic in nature,” according to a report circulating among U.N. delegations. Ahmed Shaheed, the Geneva-based U.N. Human Rights Council's special rapporteur on Iran, also called for an “extensive, impartial and independent investigation into the violence in the weeks and months that followed the presidential election of 2009,” when pro-democracy protesters surged into the streets to denounce the election of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad as bogus and rigged. Shaheed also “reiterates his call for the immediate release of all political prisoners and prisoners of con-

science,” according to the report, which The Associated Press obtained Thursday. The document will be the basis for a General Assem-

elections, and some reports put the number as high as 400. Iran detained more journalists than any other nation



An Iranian woman walks past a mural showing a clergyman holding the Quran, the Muslim holy book, in Tehran, Iran, October 10, 2012. The U.N.'s human rights expert on Iran is condemning the Islamic Republic's reliance on stoning as a form of capital punishment, citing that as just one of a number of “deeply troubling” Iranian rights violations, many of which are “systemic in nature,” according to a report circulating among U.N. delegations.

(AP Photo/Vahid Salemi)

bly resolution critical of Iran's human rights violations, which will probably be voted on in December. Shaheed reported that at least 150 journalists have fled Iran since the 2009

last year, according to his report, and to the New-York based rights group Committee to Protect Journalists, which counted 179 writers, editors and photo-journalists jailed in Iran in

December 2011.

Half of them spent time in solitary confinement, 42 percent were sent into exile in 2010-2011, and half were serving sentences ranging from 6 months to 19 ½ years on charges such as “working with hostile governments”, “propaganda against the state”, and “insulting religious sanctities,” Shaheed wrote.

As the report was being prepared last March, Iran's Foreign Ministry said Shaheed was building it on statements by “terrorists.” The term “terrorist” is an apparent reference to the Mujahedin-e Khalq, a small exile group that until recently was listed by the U.S. as a terrorist organization. The MEK says it has renounced violence, and also represents a very small fraction of the opposition to the government in Tehran.

Iran does not allow Shaheed entry to the country to conduct his research, and regards his reports as

punitive. Shaheed said he followed 124 cases of human right violations for his report and conducted 99 interviews with individuals who were inside and outside Iran between February and June.

Officials at Iran's U.N. mission did not immediately return calls seeking comment on Shaheed's completed report.

Iran is now cracking down on Internet users, with Shaheed reporting that 19 bloggers and Internet commentators are currently detained in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Four of those detained, Vahid Asghari, Ahmad Reza Hashempour, Mehdi Alizadeh Fakhrabad and Saeed Malekpour, were sentenced to death in January 2012. “

They were accused of “enmity against God” and “corruption on earth”; collaboration or engagement with foreign governments; insulting leaders of the country; and launching and maintaining pro-opposition websites. □

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Chavez sees new VP Maduro playing key role

FABIOLA SANCHEZ

IAN JAMES

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— A burly former bus driver who rose through leftist political activism to become Venezuela's top diplomat will be a key player as the vice presidential pick of President Hugo Chavez, who is heading into a new six-year term after a year of cancer treatment.

Nicolas Maduro has shown unflagging loyalty and become a leading spokesman for the socialist Chavez as foreign minister. His appointment as vice president had been widely expected. Chavez named Maduro as his choice Wednesday, three days after winning re-election, and the announcement renewed speculation about whether the 58-year-old president could finally be grooming a successor in case his health worsens. Since being named foreign minister in 2006, the mustachioed, 49-year-old Maduro has overseen many key international efforts, including consolidating the regional diplomatic blocs ALBA and Unasur, strengthening relations with coun-

tries including Russia, Iran and China, and achieving a rapprochement with U.S.-allied Colombia.

"He has been Chavez's best spokesperson. He appears strong, he's charismatic to some, and he is loyal," Eduardo Gamarra, a Latin American studies professor at Florida International University in Miami, said Thursday. The vice presidential job has assumed new importance because of Chavez's recent struggle with cancer. After a year of treatment that included surgeries, chemotherapy and radiation treatment, Chavez said in June that tests showed he was cancer-free. He has said tu-



Foreign Minister Nicolas Maduro, right, follows Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez as they arrive to a ceremony declaring Chavez winner of Sunday's presidential elections at the Electoral Council in Caracas, Venezuela. During the event Chavez announced his new vice president, choosing his longtime foreign minister Nicolas Maduro.

(AP Photo/Ariana Cubillos)

mors were removed from his pelvic area but hasn't specified the exact location or type of cancer.

During Chavez's visits to Cuba for treatment, Maduro was among the few aides seen at his side, and that presence encouraged speculation he could fill in for Chavez if necessary. During one televised appearance in Cuba in April, Maduro was shown on television playing bocce ball with Chavez and the president's elder brother, Adan. Maduro is an influential leader within Chavez's United Socialist Party, and before becoming foreign minister was National Assembly president. □

Japan: US pact deters clash with China over isles

MATTHEW PENNINGTON

Associated Press

TOKYO/WASHINGTON (AP)

— Japan said Thursday its security alliance with the U.S. is an important deterrent against conflict breaking out between China and Japan over disputed islands.

Tensions between the Asian powers have spiked since Japan last month national-

ized some of the tiny islands in waters between them. Japan's ambassador to Washington Ichiro Fujisaki said that he trusts the leaders of China and Japan will avoid a war.

Fujisaki said the issue should be dealt with calmly and without resorting to force or coercion, or allowing nationalist sentiment to get out of control.

"It's important that we should not make an emotional issue out of this. We should calmly discuss where we can on these issues and always should respect law,"

the ambassador told the Brookings Institution think tank.

He reiterated Japan's stance that the sovereignty of the island is not in dis-

pute.

The dispute over the uninhabited islands, called Senkaku in Japan and Diaoyu in China,

set off violent protests in China that targeted Japanese-owned businesses.

A widespread call in China to boycott Japanese goods threatens its economic recovery after last year's devastating earthquake. □

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Europe aims to unify its air traffic system

NICOLA CLARK

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BRUSSELS — It has been more than two years since the ash plume from an Icelandic volcano paralyzed European skies and galvanized support for a unified system of air traffic management.

But political momentum for an overhaul has stalled even though Europe's patchwork of air traffic control fiefs is so notoriously inefficient that even on clear days airlines and travelers waste time and money on too few flights, too many delays and too many illogical, circuitous flight paths.

Hoping to renew the sense of urgency, the European Union's transport commissioner plans to turn up the heat. He intends Thursday to threaten legal action against member governments that do not soon take serious steps toward integrating their air traffic control operations.

The long-term goal is a complete rethinking and streamlining of a half-century-old system that is now fragmented across 27 members of the EU and 12 other nearby countries.

"We remain a long way from creating a single European airspace," the commissioner, Siim Kallas, said in prepared remarks that he plans to deliver Thursday at a conference of regulators, air traffic management bodies and airline executives in Limassol, Cyprus. "There are some signs of change, but overall progress is too slow, and too limited. We need to think of other solutions and apply them quickly."

Quickly, in this case, means meeting a Dec. 4 deadline that Kallas plans to set. By that time, all EU members are expected to complete agreements to merge their various national airspaces into nine "functional airspace blocs." And by early

nate differences in procedures that officials say are responsible for about 5 billion euros (\$6.5 billion) in unnecessary costs each year — not to mention millions of tons in wasted fuel and added carbon emissions from inefficient routes.

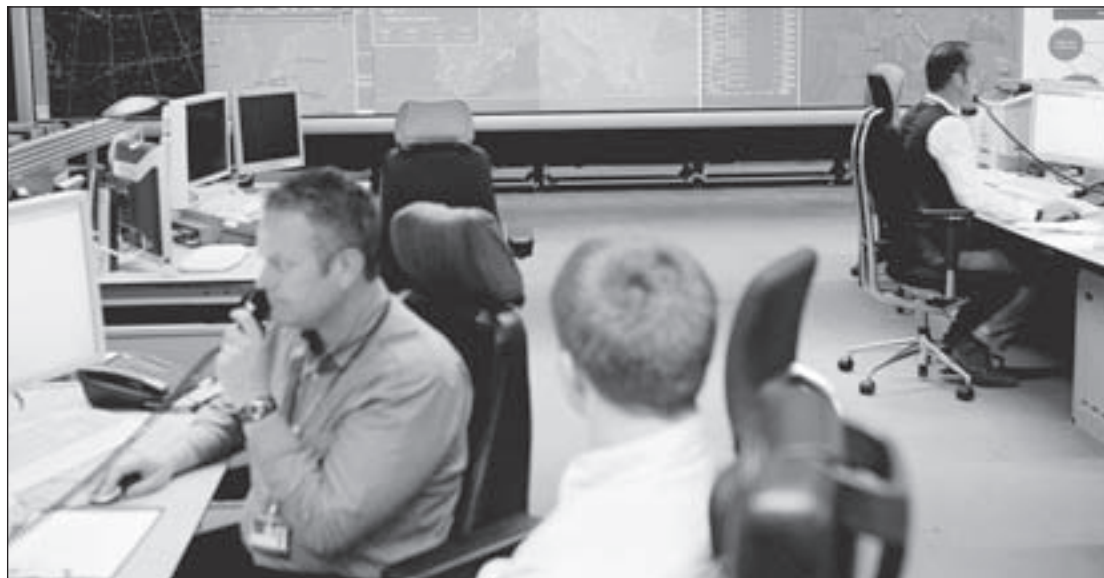
aviation's burden on the environment.

But the plan has met resistance from European governments wary about sacrificing too much sovereignty over their airspace and giving up authority over their air traffic man-

Commission, the EU's executive arm, plans to draft next spring to accelerate the pace of the overhaul. The legislation would require the countries within each of the nine airspace blocs to develop joint operating plans and assess progress toward efficiency goals. It would also seek to reinforce the powers of Eurocontrol, the air network manager, giving it more authority in airline route planning and in designing a Pan-European airspace. Many aviation industry players express frustration that the urgency after the 2010 volcanic ash cloud — when Europe's disjointed reaction to the crisis led to mass confusion for nearly a week and stranded millions of air travelers — quickly dissipated.

"When the ash cloud happened, it was suddenly clear to everybody what the benefits would be of a harmonized European system," said Hemant Mistry, director of industry charges at the International Air Transport Association. "But now when it comes to the practicalities, there are still too many players taking defensive positions."

The association said that the cost of Europe's fragmented air traffic system resulted in nearly 18 million minutes in ground delays in 2011 — about two minutes for each flight — and nearly 1 billion euros in extra en route costs because of cumbersome flight routes. The inefficiencies, the association says, also accounted for more than 8 million tons of extra airline carbon emissions — which the EU began taxing this year. □



The headquarters of Eurocontrol, an agency responsible for coordinating the flow of air traffic in what are now 39 jurisdictions in Europe, in Brussels, Oct. 8, 2012. The European Union has sought for more than a decade to remedy the disarray among national air traffic control systems.

(Gael Turine/The International Herald Tribune)

next year, the countries will be obliged to demonstrate clear progress on reducing costs in the control system and increasing air traffic. Improvements cannot come quickly enough in the view of David McMillan, director general of Eurocontrol, an agency in Brussels that is responsible for coordinating the flow of air traffic in what are now 39 jurisdictions. "This is a huge change-management project," he said, "and there is no single, clear leader to drive it."

The EU has sought for more than a decade to unify the crazy quilt of national air traffic control systems. The aim is to reduce or elimi-

This year was meant to be a crucial one for pushing through the master plan, known as the Single European Sky. Legislation passed by the European Parliament in 2009, for example, envisioned the creation of the nine airspace blocs, which would each adopt common operating procedures, technologies and fee structures — a first step toward full alignment the law envisioned by 2020. The law also required members of the EU, beginning this year, to meet a series of annual performance-improvement goals aimed at lowering air traffic management fees, reducing travel delays and easing

agement agencies, many of which are effectively arms of national transport ministries.

Several of the airspace-bloc agreements have been signed, but little progress has been made toward carrying them out. And in a dynamic not unlike the one that has played out in Europe's handling of its sovereign debt crisis, Brussels has lacked the power to compel member states to abide by their commitments.

Kallas intends to apply pressure with his speech at the Single European Sky conference in Cyprus. Aides say he is to describe new legislation the European



Larisa Leeuwe wins 2012 Miss Aruba Bikini!

The 2012 Miss Aruba Bikini contest was held recently in preparation for the 2012 Miss Aruba Pageant. The candidates were brought together with their teams and stylists to show their colorful headdresses and gorgeous bikini curves off to the judges of the pageant while cheered by a deluge of fans. The winner of the 2012 Miss Aruba Bikini contest was contestant #3, Miss Larisa Leeuwe, representing The Stars by Georgie. The 2012 Miss Aruba Pageant is scheduled for Sunday, October 28, 2012, at the Enchanted Theater, beginning at 8pm. □



Interval International, Member Resorts lead support of Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) Foundation

Miami, FL, October 11, 2012 - Interval International, a prominent worldwide provider of vacation services, and participating Caribbean-based member resorts, donated \$20,000 to the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) Foundation. Neil Kolton, Interval's director of resort sales and service for the Caribbean and Florida, presented foundation executives with the contribution during this week's CTO State of the Industry Conference held at the St. Kitts Marriott Resort & The Royal Beach Casino. "Interval extends its gratitude to the resorts that have generously supported the foundation's education initiatives during the past decade," said Kolton. "More than \$200,000 has been given to this important cause, enabling many Caribbean nationals to advance their careers in tourism."

"The tourism sector is a major economic driver in the Caribbean, so it is essential to provide access to higher education that helps develop a skilled lo-

cal workforce. This in turn enhances the region's competitive position," said Hugh Riley, secretary general of CTO. "We commend Interval and its resort

countries that participated in this year's fundraising for the CTO Foundation include:

Antigua - Tranquility Bay Antigua.

Resort and Ocean Reef Resort and Yacht Club.

Cayman Islands - Plantation Village Beach Resort, Seven Mile Beach Resort, and The Grand Cayma-

Boon Beach Resort, Oyster Bay Beach Resort, Simpson Bay Resort & Marina, The Villas at Simpson Bay Resort and Marina, and The Westin Dawn Beach Resort and Spa.

Turks and Caicos - The Alexandra Resort and Spa.

CTO's primary objective is to provide its members with the services and information needed for the development of sustainable tourism for the economic and social benefit of the Caribbean people. The organization offers specialized support and technical assistance to member countries in the areas of marketing, human resource development, research and statistics, and sustainable tourism development. As a long-standing supporter of the CTO and a board member of the CTO Foundation, Interval is committed to understanding the unique needs of the Caribbean region and providing products and programs tailored to this market.

About Interval International: Interval International operates membership programs for vacationers and provides value-added services to its developer clients worldwide. Based in Miami, Florida, the company has been a pioneer and innovator in serving the vacation ownership market since 1976. Today, Interval has an exchange network of approximately 2,700 resorts in more than 75 nations. Through offices in 15 countries, Interval offers high-quality products and benefits to resort clients and about 2 million families who are enrolled in various membership programs. □



Pictured (left to right) - Hon. Richard "Ricky" Skerrett, CTO Chairman and Minister of Tourism & International Transport, St. Kitts & Nevis; Neil Kolton, director of resort sales and service, Caribbean and Florida, Interval International; Jacqueline Johnson, chairman, CTO Foundation; and Hugh Riley, secretary general, CTO.

partners for being one of the largest financial supporters of the foundation. The donation will greatly assist us in awarding additional scholarships to deserving individuals."

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Dominican Republic - Co-fresi Palm Beach & Spa Resort, Coral Costa Caribe, VIK Hotel Cayana Beach, and Lifestyle Holidays Vacation Resort.

Mexican Caribbean - Ocean Spa Hotel.

Puerto Rico - Aquarius Vacation Club® at Boquerón Beach and Aquarius Vacation Club® Dorado del Mar Beach and Golf Resort, ESJ Towers, and Hyatt Residence Club.

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Mia Pecovich

She will be turning 8 in November. She was the Beauty on the Beach six years ago! She is from Boston MA. She has been coming to Aruba consecutively since birth and she always comes with her parents and family. They all stay at Casa Del Mar. She loves everything Aruba has to offer, and going to the beach is her favorite activity in Aruba.

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Aruba's Papiamento crew dashes Cayman Islands' hopes

MATTHEW YATES
11 OCTOBER, 2012 - The

Cayman Islands could have made more volleyball history against Aruba. Instead, the Dutch nation would beat Cayman in a pair of five-set thrillers at the 2014 North, Central America and Caribbean Volleyball Confederation World Championship Men's First Round Qualifier. Matches took place at the new Clifton Hunter High School Sports Centre in Frank Sound.

Cayman player/head coach Keith Higgins states the defeats are tough to accept.

"It was a very tough loss in the playoffs for the Cayman Islands," Higgins said. "We did play very well, my guys tried really hard, especially in the third set, but in the beginning of the fourth Aruba took advantage from the beginning and it came downhill from there on. We trailed the entire match in that fourth set."

"We played Aruba to a tight, dramatic five-set game in the round robin stage and we were expecting fireworks again in the playoffs. It was a very even match-up and congratulations to Aruba and good luck to them in the next round."

Cayman would lose to the Papiamento side 3-2 (17-25, 25-17, 25-23, 18-25, 10-15) before a 3-2 (25-21, 20-25, 25-11, 16-25, 13-15) defeat in the third place playoff game allowed Aruba to advance to the next round of qualifying in 2013.

Both matches had added intrigue. In the first encounter, Cayman lost the final set on a technical mistake as the hosts were ruled to have served out of sequence.

In the second match, there was an electrical short mid-way through the second set. While the Sports Centre only lost power momentarily, the lights needed five minutes to return to full

the first match and we had to get ready for the next one and try to win that," Thompson said. "We played a good game, unfortunately we had mishaps here and there that cost us

I was focused on doing what I had to do. It happens. I was just trying to concentrate but unfortunately I wasn't able to finish the match because of a small injury, I went down

But the game was played well."

Cayman ended the tournament with an abysmal 0-4 mark. In addition to the Aruba losses, Cayman were defeated by Suriname 3-0 (16-25, 23-25, 13-25) and Barbados 3-0 (17-25, 14-25, 20-25).

Serving as hosts for the first time, Cayman went into the competition as underdogs ranking 29th in the NORCECA standings.

They shared that spot with Aruba. In comparison, Barbados were rated 12th in the region with Suriname ranking 14th.

Leading Aruba to victory was captain Eargenell De Cuba, who played through injury against Cayman.

"I had a sprained ankle in the first game," De Cuba said. "It was difficult because I had to stop and I was not able to attack. It was difficult to jump high, I couldn't run. It turned out OK, I got to perform and I was very happy with the result. □"



Aruba beats Cayman twice during the 2014 North, Central America and Caribbean Volleyball Confederation World Championship Men's First Round Qualifier.

(Photo: Matthew Yates)

brightness.

Higgins states the round robin loss was especially painful.

"We played some good volleyball in spurts but we lost points in our games. There were a lot of unforced errors and there was a lack of communication in the game. There was a mix-up at the end and officials are human like we are."

"Regardless of that last call, I'm not sure we would be victorious. We got to play better to win."

It takes a whole game to win, we got most of the game but Aruba came back in the end."

Cayman captain Olney 'OT' Thompson suffered a hamstring pull in the fourth set of the playoff game and could only watch as the hosts faltered. He states both defeats to Aruba presented different challenges.

"Everyone played well in

points and the game.

"In the playoffs, honestly, I don't know what happened. We kind of lost it. The game went so fast and

with a pull.

"I think I could have contributed a lot more, it's too bad for the team that the captain was taken out."

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The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company, L.L.C. adds to its

Caribbean presence with exclusive resort in Aruba

MIAMI, FL. -- The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company, L.L.C. is pleased to unveil plans for The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba, an exclusive 320-room ocean-front resort situated on the Caribbean island's famed Palm Beach. Ushering in a new level of elegance in accommodations and amenities to the island, the grand resort will offer beautifully appointed rooms and suites, four dining outlets, a luxurious 13-treatment room spa, two swimming pools and a 24-hour casino. The hotel will also include The Ritz-Carlton Club Level, a private floor accessible only by elevator key, offering a savory selection of light fare and dedicated concierge service throughout the day.

The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba, projected to open in late 2013, will be the seventh lo-

cation in The Ritz-Carlton's exclusive portfolio of award winning properties in the Caribbean and Mexico, joining existing hotels in St. Thomas (U.S. Virgin Islands), Jamaica, Grand Cayman, Puerto Rico, Mexico and the first Reserve property in the Americas, Dorado Beach, a Ritz-Carlton Reserve.

"Aruba is an island destination with growing appeal to discerning travelers from Europe, the United States and South America. Its stunning beaches and majestic views make the island one of those exceptional places in the Southern Caribbean, blending serenity and scenic attractions that our guests seek when planning a vacation," said Mark Ferland, area vice president, Southeast Region, Caribbean and Latin



America, The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company, L.L.C. "It is an extraordinary location

to debut Aruba's premier luxury resort," added Ferland.

In addition to an assortment of luxury amenities, The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba will present the regions preeminent meeting facilities, with an exceptional selection of indoor and outdoor venues, including an expansive ballroom, boardroom poolside decks, manicured lawns and beachfront reception area.

Located off the coast of Venezuela, Aruba is renowned for miles of white powder sand beaches and crystal blue water that boasts a warm tropical climate year-round. The 21 mile-long island is situated on the southern part of the Caribbean Sea and features many diverse influences as a result of its rich history. The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba is located in Palm Beach, home to some of the island's finest beaches. Lush tropical surroundings and a balmy temperature allow for swimming, sunbathing and relaxation by the water. □



SPORTS

Aruba TODAY



Roger Federer of Switzerland serves against his compatriot Stanislas Wawrinka during the third round match of the Shanghai Masters tennis tournament at Qizhong Forest Sports City Tennis Center in Shanghai, China, Thursday Oct. 11, 2012.

Associated Press

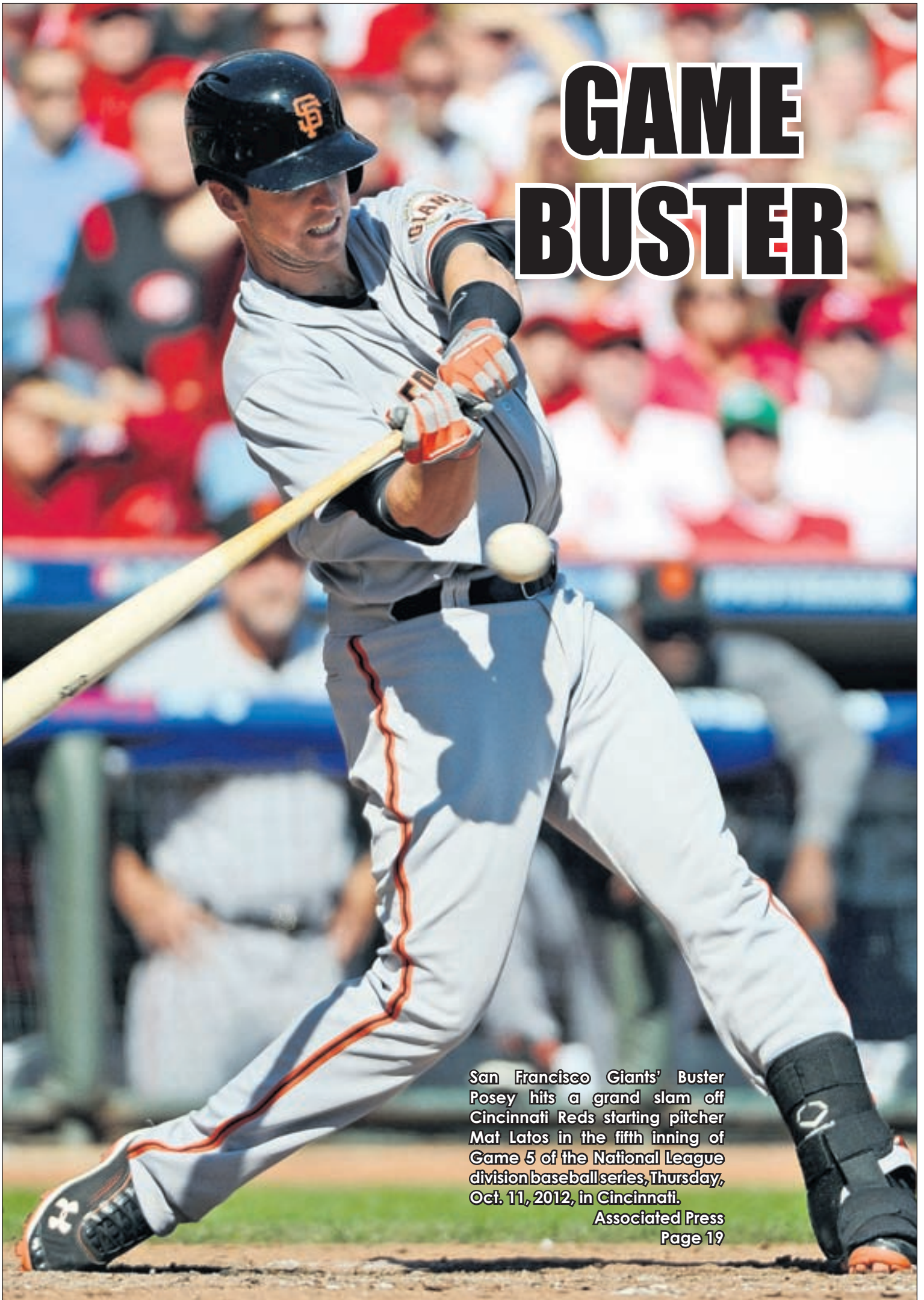
Federer wins, to stay No.1 for 300th week

SHANGHAI (AP) — Roger Federer assured himself the No. 1 ranking for the 300th week of his career by beating Davis Cup teammate Stanislas Wawrinka 4-6, 7-6 (4), 6-0 Thursday in the third round of the Shanghai Masters.

"It's obviously an amazing number and I never thought of anything like this when I was a little kid," Federer said. "I just thought one day my dream would come true to play on the tour. So here I am at 300 weeks, and it's probably one of my biggest accomplishments and something I'm very proud of. No doubt about it."

The Swiss star will play 10th-seeded Marin Cilic in the quarterfinals after the Croat beat Fernando Verdasco of Spain 4-6, 6-1, 6-4. Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray also reached the quarterfinals.

Continued on next Page



GAME BUSTER

San Francisco Giants' Buster Posey hits a grand slam off Cincinnati Reds starting pitcher Mat Latos in the fifth inning of Game 5 of the National League division baseball series, Thursday, Oct. 11, 2012, in Cincinnati.

Associated Press
Page 19

Lee Westwood to meet Rose in World Golf Final

BERNIE MCGUIRE
Associated Press

BELEK, Turkey (AP) — Justin Rose beat Tiger Woods by a stroke Thursday to set up a title match with Lee Westwood in the World Golf Final. The two Englishmen, who played on the victorious European Ryder Cup team, will meet Saturday, with the winner getting \$1.5 million and the runner-up \$1 million in the eight-player exhibition.

Rose, who holed a sand wedge shot for an eagle at the 14th, finished with a 2-under 69 while Woods was at 70. Westwood shot a course-record 61 in the semifinals to beat 2011 Masters champion Charl Schwartzel of South Africa by six shots. Westwood had two eagles and eight birdies, including a 50-footer at the last on the Sultan Course at Antalya Club. His score would have been even better if not for a double bogey at the fourth hole.

"It was just one of those days I was on a roll. I am just pleased to be swinging the ball well because I've got no hangover from the Ryder Cup, and that's nice," Westwood said. "It seemed the hole just got bigger and bigger with each hole I played, and that hasn't happened for a while. "It's also a very satisfying feeling to be playing in a

tournament like this, and if Justin had not beaten Webb Simpson earlier today I would not have had the opportunity to go out and shoot 61. So a lot of things have to go your way and I have capitalized on a

Woods also broke out in a smile. "I was really struggling early on today and to can that shot at 14 was easily the turning point," Rose said. "In proper match play you would only win the hole, but in this format I've

two pars apiece.

"When Justin birdied 13 and holed out at 14, it was the turning point in the match," Woods said. "I was 2 up at the time and all of a sudden 1 down with four holes to play.

some big-time swings out there, as we saw with Justin at 14. But then it was a long day and it's certainly frustrating when I've lost two matches by a shot, but that's the way it goes."

Rose is now ready for an all-English showdown with Westwood. "I would dearly love to win this as I want to stay fresh and I want to stay hungry for the rest of the season," Rose said. "There is very little history of Westwood and myself playing against each other, but being the world No. 5 at the moment it would be great to get one over the world No. 4." The final is Saturday morning, with Woods and the other players competing in an afternoon Pro-Am. Woods has hinted he will consider a return to Turkey next year for the inaugural \$7 million Turkish Open that was announced this week. Woods also backed Darren Clarke to become captain of the European team for the 2014 Ryder Cup in Gleneagles. Woods helped Clarke when the Northern Irishman's first wife, Heather, died weeks before the 2006 Ryder Cup in Ireland.

"I'm not sure what the process is, but if Darren is selected he would make a great captain," Woods said. "He's one of my best friends out here and he's a great guy. He'd make a great leader." □



USA's Tiger Woods plays a tee-shot during his World Golf Final Group 1 match against Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland in Belek, Antalya, Turkey, Thursday, Oct. 11, 2012.

Associated Press

bit of fortune."

Rose tried to pull his cap over his face when his wedge shot at No. 14 took a couple of bounces and disappeared into the hole.

picked up two shots on Tiger and it's help me win the match." Rose then birdied No. 13, and after his eagle a hole later both birdied No. 16 before ending with

"But I haven't played since format since the Dunhill Cup in '98, so it's been awhile, and it's a neat format as it's never over until it's done. There can be

Federer

Continued from Page 17

Djokovic defeated Feliciano Lopez of Spain 6-3, 6-3, and Murray beat Alexandr Dolgoplov of Ukraine 6-2, 6-2.

Murray will play unseeded Radek Stepanek of the Czech Republic. Stepanek upset eighth-seeded John Isner 6-4, 6-7 (5), 6-3. Federer struggled with his backhand for much of the first two sets before recovering.

"I just keep on trying," he said. "I knew I had a chance going into the breaker and I was just a little lucky. But I never stopped believing.

But he was the better player for two sets. It was great finding a way out."

The second-seeded Djokovic had 12 aces and won 27 of 29 first-serve points. The third game of the second set was the only time in the match that the Serb lost two points on serve. □

Novak Djokovic of Serbia returns a shot to Feliciano Lopez of Spain during their third round men's singles match of the Shanghai Masters tennis tournament at Qizhong Forest Sports City Tennis Center in Shanghai, China, Thursday Oct. 11, 2012. Novak Djokovic won 6-3, 6-3.
Associated Press



Giants beat Reds 6-4, win NLDS on Posey's slam

CINCINNATI (AP) - Buster Posey insisted all along - even after San Francisco lost the first two at home - that his team was far from done, no matter how long the odds.

Turns out, he was right. And the NL batting champion had a lot to do with this most Giant comeback.

Posey hit the third grand slam in Giants postseason history on Thursday, and San Francisco pulled off an unprecedented revival, moving into the championship series with a 6-4 victory over the Cincinnati Reds. They'll play either Washington or St. Louis for the NL pennant starting Sunday.

"We could go up against anybody at any time," shortstop Brandon Crawford said. "Being down 2-0 and coming back and winning three at their place, it's an unbelievable feeling."

The Giants became only the eighth team to win a five-game playoff series after falling behind 2-0. Major League Baseball's changed playoff format this season allowed them

to become the first to take a best-of-five by winning the last three on the road. With one swing, Posey made it possible.

"I don't think anybody gave up," he said.

Posey's second career grand slam off Mat Latos put the Giants up 6-0 in the fifth and sparked a joyous scrum in the San Francisco dugout. The ball smacked off the front of the upper deck in left field, just above Latos' name on the video board.

"That gave us some breathing room," reliever Jeremy Affeldt said. "We were all excited."

Will Clark, in the 1989 NLCS, and Chuck Hiller, in the 1962 World Series, hit the other Giants slams in the postseason.

Matt Cain and the bullpen held on, with more help from Posey. The All-Star catcher threw out Jay Bruce at third base to snuff out a sixth-inning rally that cut it to 6-3. The Giants also had a pair of diving catches that preserved the lead in the eighth.

Ryan Ludwick singled home



The San Francisco Giants celebrate after they defeated the Cincinnati Reds 6-4 in Game 5 of the National League division baseball series, Thursday, Oct. 11, 2012, in Cincinnati. The Giants won the final three games, all in Cincinnati, and advanced to the NL championship series.

Associated Press

a run in the ninth off Sergio Romo. With two runners aboard, Romo fanned Scott Rolen to end it. The Giants raised their arms, hugged and huddled by the side of the mound, bouncing in unison.

Then they were off to the visiting clubhouse to start spraying some bubbly.

In Cincinnati, the home-field meltdown that felt sickeningly familiar. The Reds haven't won a home playoff game in 17 years.

After taking the first two on the West Coast, all they needed was one more at home, where they hadn't dropped three straight all season.

"You get tired of the disappointments, but then you get over it," manager Dusty Baker said. "It hurts big-time."

Once Posey connected, the Reds were the ones facing an unprecedented comeback. They've never overcome a six-run deficit

in the playoffs, according to STATS LLC.

Couldn't do it this time, either.

The Giants won it all in 2010, when they never trailed in any of their three postseason series. They beat the Braves 3-1 in the division series, knocked out the Phillies 4-2 for the NL title, then took four of five from Texas for their sixth World Series title and their first since they moved from New York to San Francisco in 1958. □

Ibanez homers twice, Yanks sting O's in 12th

By **HOWIE RUMBERG**

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) -- The highest-paid player in baseball could only sit and watch when Raul Ibanez pinch hit for him and tied the game with a bottom-of-the-ninth home run.

Alex Rodriguez had another good view from the dugout three innings later when Ibanez homered to win it.

Saved by manager Joe Girardi's gutsy move - and Ibanez's big swings - the New York Yankees rallied for a stunning 3-2 win in the 12th over the Baltimore Orioles on Wednesday night for a 2-1 lead in their best-of-five AL division series.

"You're going to be asked a lot of questions if it doesn't work," Girardi said.

The slumping Rodriguez, among the greatest power hitters in history, offered no complaint, telling Girardi: "Joe, you gotta do exactly what you gotta do."

"Maybe 10 years ago I would have reacted in a much different way," A-Rod said.

Ibanez then stepped up and hit a tying, solo shot to right-center with one out in the ninth off major league saves leader Jim Johnson to make it 2-all.

Yankees fans had been howling this week for Girardi to drop Rodriguez out of the No. 3 spot in the batting order. But Girardi was reluctant to move his fading slugger down in the lineup. Until he took him all the way out.

"You have to make some

decisions sometimes that are tough decisions. I just had a gut feeling," Girardi said.

Rodriguez has 647 career home runs - he's chasing the all-time record of 762 by Barry Bonds - and is making \$29 million this year. But was just 1 for 12 with no RBIs and seven strikeouts in this series when Girardi pulled him.

"It kind of caught me off-guard,

hitting for a guy who's half-a-billionaire," Orioles center fielder Adam Jones said.

It was the first time Rodriguez had ever been pinch-hit for in a postseason game, according to STATS LLC.

And it worked.

Rodriguez immediately



New York Yankees' Raul Ibanez (27) runs past Baltimore Orioles pitcher Brian Matusz (17) after hitting the game-winning home run during the 12th inning of Game 3 of the American League division baseball series Wednesday, Oct. 10, 2012, in New York. The Yankees won 3-2.

Associated Press

turned to injured Yankees closer Mariano Rivera, raised one arm, then both arms and traded high-fives with his star teammate. When Ibanez returned to the bench, Rodriguez was the first player to greet him. "He said great job. A-Rod is a great teammate and

great team player," Ibanez said. "He's the first one on the top step congratulating you. It's about winning. It's about the Yankees and continuing."

Ibanez remained in the game and connected on the first pitch from Brian Matusz in the 12th. □

NHL players on the move to Europe during lockout

KAREL JANICEK
Associated Press

PRAGUE (AP) — Seconds into the third period, Alexander Ovechkin took control of a loose puck — one that had stopped in a pool of water.

With three defensemen closing in, the Washington Capitals star backhanded a shot into the net for the game-winning goal.

It's not the NHL, but as long as the lockout goes on, it's as close as there is.

Ovechkin is one of the most recognizable names forced to head overseas by the NHL lockout, and he didn't have to think twice about where to find an opportunity to play. The offensive star simply returned to his former Russian team, Dynamo Moscow — the defending champion of the Kontinental Hockey League.

"Home is home," Ovechkin said during a road trip to Prague to face Lev Praha. "My family, friends, all people who wouldn't have a chance to see me can come to watch the games. "Besides, I'm glad that I can repay my debt to Dynamo. It was the club that got me



Alexander Ovechkin, right, from Dynamo Moscow collides with Zdeno Chara from Lev Praha during their KHL ice hockey match in Prague, Czech Republic, Tuesday, Oct. 9, 2012. Chara and Ovechkin are among those NHL players who were signed by European clubs because of the NHL lockout.

Associated Press

ready for the big hockey." The NHL has already canceled the first two weeks of the regular season, wiping out 82 games from Thursday through Oct. 24. Labor negotiations with the players' association are ongoing in New York.

In the meantime, the ambitious Russian-based KHL, which includes teams from other Eastern European

countries, has clearly benefited from the availability of many top players.

"The NHL is not working right now," said Ovechkin, the 2008 and '09 NHL MVP. "So, the KHL is the best league. "Well of course you can see the difference. The first difference is the bigger ice and the game is not that fast than in the NHL, not that many hits in the game,

but I can see the level of the game, I can see the guys — the skill of the players how they have great technique."

Several other Russian NHL players must agree.

Evgeni Malkin, a center with the Pittsburgh Penguins and the NHL's reigning MVP, is committed to his hometown team in Magnitogorsk, while New Jersey

Devils forward Ilya Kovalchuk has been signed by SKA St. Petersburg.

Zdeno Chara, a towering Boston Bruins defenseman, is another who just joined Lev Praha, a new KHL franchise based in the Czech capital.

"As of right now, it is important for a lot of players, including myself, that we stay in shape and that we play and be in kind of organized hockey and keep up in good shape," Chara told The Associated Press.

Prague is not unknown territory for Chara. He played for Sparta Prague's youth team before joining the Prince George Cougars in Canada's Western Hockey League in 1996, after he failed to make the Sparta roster. Two years ago, he opened the regular season in Prague with the Bruins in a double-header against the Phoenix Coyotes, and then went on to captain his team to win the Stanley Cup. "Being here two years ago, it was really nice. As a team we had a good time," Chara said. "We started off the season good and we had time for team bonding. For most of the guys it was really nice to see different parts of Europe and experience the culture and history. Personally, I am excited that I could come back and play for this team."

The presence of some big names has not gone unnoticed, spurring fans to head to KHL arenas to see the best players on the planet. When Ovechkin's and Chara's teams met on Tuesday in Prague, it was before a KHL record crowd of 16,317.

"It's very nice to see so many fans show up," Chara said after a 1-0 loss on the goal scored by Ovechkin, his fourth of the season. "There's not too many chances for people to come and see such great NHL players. Now, it's the time." The KHL is not the only competition luring NHL players. Others have signed up to play in Switzerland, Finland, Sweden, Germany, the Czech Republic and even Britain.

Eagles QB Vick confirms he is again a dog owner

By ROB MAADDI
AP Pro Football Writer

PHILADELPHIA (AP) -- Michael Vick is a dog owner again. Vick, who served 18 months in federal prison on dogfighting charges, confirmed Thursday that his family has a dog. The Philadelphia Eagles' four-time Pro Bowl quarterback refused to discuss the topic just a day earlier.

"I understand the strong emotions by some people about our family's decision to care for a pet," Vick said in a statement. "As a father, it is important to make sure my children develop a healthy relationship with animals. I want to ensure that my children establish a loving bond and treat all of God's creatures with kindness and respect. Our pet is well cared for and loved as a member of our family."



Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Michael Vick (7) fumbles the ball into the end zone after being hit by Pittsburgh Steelers free safety Ryan Clark (25) in the first quarter of an NFL football game in Pittsburgh, Sunday, Oct. 7, 2012. The Steelers recovered the ball.

Associated Press

Since his release from prison in 2009, Vick has worked with The Humane Society of the United States to speak out against animal cruelty. He's made appearances at schools and spoken to

students about the dangers of being involved in dogfighting. Vick says that commitment will continue. "This is an opportunity to break the cycle," Vick said. "To that end, I will continue

to honor my commitment to animal welfare and be an instrument of positive change."

The Humane Society declined to comment.

Vick was banned from owning a dog until completing his probation period. When he first stated his desire to own one, it touched off a firestorm. Some animal rights activists were outraged along with fans who thought the star player should never be allowed to have a dog.

"I'm not a psychopath. I'm not crazy. I'm a human being," Vick once told The Associated Press about wanting to own a dog. "What happened in my past and what I did in the culture I grew up in doesn't shape and mold me as the person I am now." □

Earnhardt Jr to miss 2 races after 2 concussions

By JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

CONCORD, N.C. (AP)

-- Dale Earnhardt Jr. knew he had suffered a concussion in an August crash so jolting that other drivers tweeted about it immediately after the impact.

Earnhardt was too stubborn to see a doctor about it. He was too worried he would be yanked from his car, derailing his long-suffering Sprint Cup Championship hopes.

So he kept it a secret until a 25-car accident on the last lap Sunday at Talladega left him with a lingering headache.

NASCAR's most popular driver sought medical attention from a neurosurgeon, who found Earnhardt had indeed suffered two concussions in six weeks and could not be medically cleared to race. Earnhardt said Thursday he will sit out the next two weeks, at Charlotte and Kansas, ending his championship chances.

"I would love to race this weekend, and I feel perfectly normal and feel like I could compete if I were allowed to compete," Earnhardt said. "But I think that the basis of this whole deal is that I've had two concussions in the last (six) weeks, and you can't layer con-

cussions. It gets extremely dangerous."

A decade ago, it was Earnhardt who helped spur changes in how NASCAR handled drivers showing signs of a concussion.

He self-diagnosed a concussion from an accident at California, but didn't tell anyone about it until revealing in an interview weeks later that he'd been having difficulty focusing and communicating with his crew chief. Within days of his admission, NASCAR strengthened its commitment to keeping drivers with concussions off the track.

NASCAR ruled that drivers unable to drive their car back to the garage after an accident had to make a mandatory trip to the infield care center. The attending physician could then refer a driver to a neurosurgeon for a CT scan or MRI if they suspected a concussion.

Clearance to race after suffering a concussion is not given until after a driver obtains a medical release.

"I think we've got a pretty good history of sending drivers to the care center and then also to a neurologist if we think there may be any cause to do so," said NASCAR senior vice president Steve O'Donnell,

who added that only nine drivers from NASCAR's three national series have suffered concussions in the last five years.

Of course, Earnhardt proved Thursday that NASCAR isn't always in the

Tony Stewart (14) flips over as Kasey Kahne (5), Clint Bowyer (15), Terry Labonte (32), Regan Smith (78), Jeff Burton (31), Jimmie Johnson (48), Dale Earnhardt Jr., (88) Paul Menard (27) and David Ragan (34) crash around him during the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race at Talladega Superspeedway in Talladega, Ala., Sunday, Oct. 7, 2012.

Associated Press

know.

Earnhardt's first concussion this season came in an Aug. 29 wreck during a tire test at Kansas. His crash into the wall when his right front tire failed was so hard that Brad Keselowski immediately tweeted about. Earnhardt was seen after the accident in the back of an ambulance, but was not treated in the infield care center and did not seek further examination elsewhere.

He attended a Washington Redskins exhibition game later that night, but admitted Thursday he knew he suffered a concussion. □



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PG



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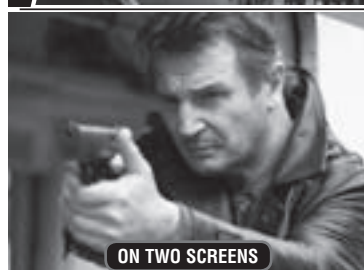
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Adam Sandler Selena Gomez

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Botox at the mall: Medical spas growing in popularity

Susan Salisbury

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WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. --

Along with buying a pair of shoes and a sandwich, mall shoppers can have their wrinkles smoothed with Botox injections or their lips plumped with a facial filler.

It's all part of the mainstreaming of cosmetic services, and the demand from an aging populace that wants to look its best.

"Women want a well-trained person who is a great injector and great prices, and they want it to be convenient," said Bill Clarke, managing partner of Venus Mini Med Spa. The company, launched three years ago, does \$6 million a year and has stores in 10 malls, including The Mall Wellington at Wellington Green and Town Center at Boca Raton.

Injections of Botox and Dysport, a similar product, were the top non-surgical cosmetic procedure performed in 2011 by its physician members, the American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery reports. The number of treatments with the two products aimed at reducing frown lines grew to more than 2.6 million from 65,257 in 1997.

Injectable dermal fillers designed to diminish the lines around the nose and mouth, including Radiesse and Juvederm, once were done mostly by dermatologists and plastic surgeons. Now, the income stream is being sought by everyone from family doctors to dentists and chiropractors, as well as medical spas, in part because of declining reimbursement from insurance companies for standard practices.

"There is a little bit of a Wild West out there in terms of all these different kinds of venues that are popping up for these sorts of procedures. It is important to realize that with all of these so-called minimally invasive procedures, you are putting things under the skin," said Dr. Leo McCafferty, a Pittsburgh plastic surgeon who is president of the American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery.



Along with buying a pair of shoes and a sandwich, mall shoppers can have their wrinkles smoothed with Botox injections or their lips plumped with a facial filler. It's all part of the mainstreaming of cosmetic services, and the demand from an aging populace that wants to look its best.

(Photo)

"They are all medical procedures. People should be evaluated with the proper history and a medical examination," McCafferty said.

From 1997 to 2011, nonsurgical cosmetic procedures including everything from dermal fillers to laser skin resurfacing increased 356 percent, the society found. Women have 91 percent of the procedures, and the 35-50 age group accounts

for 48 percent, followed by 51- to 64-year-olds at 29 percent.

"Going back five years, everybody thought it was just for the rich and famous. It's not. People want to maintain what is above the neck. They do not want to get old like their parents. They can get wonderful results without going the surgical route," Clarke said. The boom in cosmetic procedures that's fueling med

spa has added the medical component," Share said.

Ipsen Pharmaceuticals, manufacturers of Dysport, and Allergan Inc., maker of Botox, warn the botulinum toxins may affect areas away from the injection site. They can cause symptoms of botulism, and can occur hours to weeks after injection. Symptoms may include swallowing and breathing problems, loss of strength and muscle weakness all over the body, double vision, blurred vision and drooping eyelids, hoarseness, change or loss of voice, trouble speaking clearly, or loss of bladder control.

The state does not regulate med spas, but anyone who performs injections must meet certain requirements, said Ashley Carr, spokeswoman for the Florida Department of Health. Florida law allows nonsurgical cosmetic treatments such as the injections to be performed by a medical doctor of any type. Physician's assistants and advanced registered nurse practitioners can also provide the services under a supervising physician who must be within 25 miles. They must work under a protocol signed by a physician, Carr said.

At Venus, muscle-relaxing Dysport is \$199 per facial area, or three areas for \$550. The treatments are administered by either a physician's assistant or an advanced registered nurse practitioner, Clarke said. Competition appears to be driving prices down. Board-certified plastic surgeons, otolaryngologists and dermatologists charged an average of \$328 per area

in 2011, down from \$398 in 2010, according to an American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery survey.

Venus is the perfect fit for Joan Upson, 54, a Royal Palm Beach dental office manager who visits The Mall at Wellington Green location on a regular basis for fillers such as Radiesse and Perlane. Previously, she had collagen injections at her dermatologist's office, but finds the staff at Venus spends more time with her and answers her questions. "I walked by one afternoon and went in there. I talked with the girls and got information.

I decided literally to give it a shot," Upson said. "I'm happy with it. It's a big improvement. It's almost like a liquid facelift."

Wellington plastic surgeon Dr. Harold Bafitis, who supervises the Wellington Venus store, said consumers cannot assume that every med spa is safe.

"You have to know where you are going. Some of these med spas have had issues. A lot of times, there are family doctors overseeing these med spas. There should be either a plastic surgeon or dermatologist overseeing them," Bafitis said.

"Ask who is supervising it and who is doing the work. How many patients has this individual done? If there is an issue or a problem, who is going to take care of it?" Bafitis said.

Price matters, but isn't always the main consideration. For many, it's about comfort level, and that may mean getting a Botox shot from a board-certified dermatologist or plastic surgeon. □

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EBay unveils big redesign with a nod to Pinterest

BARBARA ORTUTAY

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — EBay has redesigned its website to encourage visitors to browse and collect items they might want to buy later with something it calls the “feed.”

The feature, reminiscent of popular sites like image-heavy Pinterest, shows users items based on things they purchased in the past or items they’ve clicked on the site. Shoppers can also edit their feed by adding or removing categories and individual items.

Ebay’s old search feature — which helps shoppers who already know what they are looking for — is not going away. Rather, the company says it wants online shopping feel more like window-shopping or browsing in a brick-and-

mortar store.

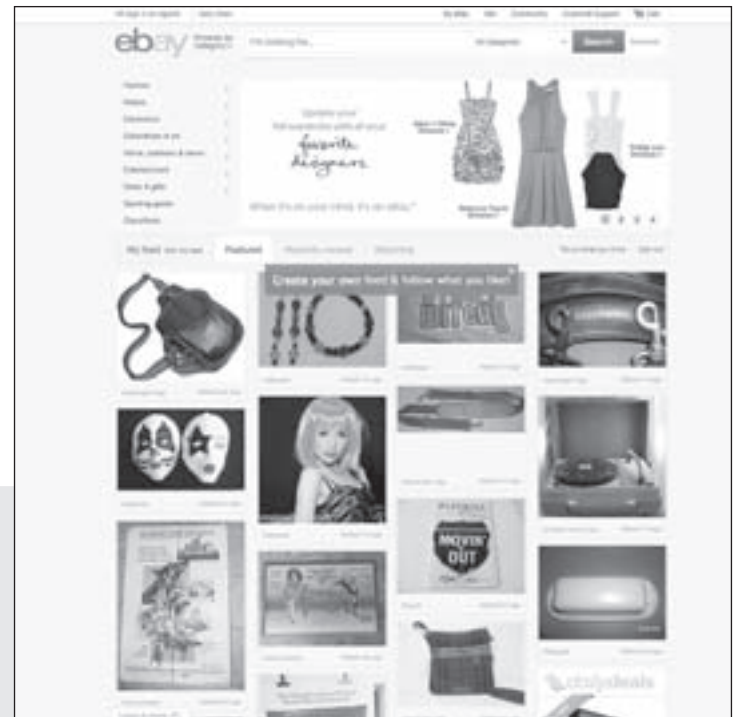
San Jose, California-based eBay Inc. unveiled the new site Wednesday at an event in New York’s trendy Meatpacking district. It will be available to eBay’s U.S. users gradually over the next 100 days and to international users after that. eBay says it has 105 million active users worldwide. And it has about 25 million sellers ranging from large brands to individuals.

The company is also launching a smartphone and tablet computer app called eBay Now. The app lets people order items from retailers such as Macy’s, Target and Walgreens. In most cases, eBay promises delivery within an hour. eBay Now is being tested in San Francisco but the company will likely roll it out elsewhere in the future.

The company also simplified its shopping site so that it takes fewer clicks of the mouse to buy items. The redesign also looks cleaner and with larger photos than the previous version.

This screenshot made Oct. 10, 2012, shows EBay’s redesigned website meant to encourage visitors to browse and collect items they might want to buy later with something it calls the “feed.”

Associated Press



U.N. says world has 6B cell phone subscribers

GENEVA (AP) — The world now has nearly as many cell phone subscriptions as inhabitants.

The U.N. telecom agency says there were about 6 billion subscriptions by the end of 2011 — roughly one for 86 of every 100 people. In a report Thursday, the International Telecommunication Union said China alone accounted for 1 billion subscriptions, and India is expected to hit the 1-bil-

lion mark this year.

The Geneva-based agency says 2.3 billion people — or about one in three of the world’s 7 billion inhabitants — were Internet users by the end of 2011, but there’s a strong disparity between rich and developing countries.

ITU says 70 percent of people who use the Internet live in wealthier, industrialized countries, compared with 24 percent who live

In addition, the company has been testing a service called Lifestyle Deals, which offers Groupon-style daily deals in select cities such as San Francisco, Boston and New York.

Shares of eBay, which reports its quarterly earnings next Wednesday, climbed 54 cents to close at \$46.76. □



This June 19, 2012 file photo shows Samsung’s new Galaxy S III phone, in New York.

Associated Press

in poorer, developing nations. □

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Long shadow of financial crisis haunts banks

CHRISTINA REXRODE

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The hot trend in banking now: Betting which one will be next to get sued.

Major U.S. banks start reporting third-quarter earnings Friday. And while some of the cold fear of the scandal-filled second quarter has worn off, and revenue is expected to rise for at least two banks, there will still be ample reminders of the long shadow of the financial crisis. More than four years after the crisis imploded, and banks have yet to shake its consequences.

In just the past two weeks, at least three major legal battles over crisis-era accusations have swirled: Bank of America settled accusations that it misled investors when it agreed to buy Merrill Lynch. The New York attorney general sued JPMorgan Chase over the risky mortgage-backed securities once peddled by Bear Stearns, which JPMorgan now owns. The federal government sued Wells Fargo,

charging that the bank improperly received millions of dollars' worth of government insurance payouts for failed mortgage loans. Previously, at the end of August, Citigroup settled accusations that it had misled investors about the depths of its subprime-related dealings.

The numbers aren't good, either: Of the six U.S. megabanks, only Wells Fargo was able to pull in more revenue than it had the year before.

So maybe by now, bank investors consider legal problems just the new normal. The stock of JPMorgan, for example, is higher than it was when the bank revealed its surprise trading loss in May.

The bank earnings season officially kicks off Friday with reports from JPMorgan and Wells Fargo. Here's more on what to watch for.

JPMORGAN CHASE

—Reports: Friday.

—What to watch for: Analysts will likely want an update on the fallout from

the \$6 billion trading loss revealed this spring. The bank has shut down the division that was responsible for the mistake, cleared out managers who were involved and re-examined its risk management practices.

helps. The mortgage unit provides a steady stream of revenue, and low interest rates are fueling a boom of refinance business. Analysts are expecting higher revenue this quarter. But the title also

it wants. Last month, for example, Citi warned that it would have to take a third-quarter charge because it didn't get as much money as it wanted for its gradual sale of Morgan Stanley Smith Barney.

Citi co-owns the retail brokerage with Morgan Stanley and is selling back its stake. Analysts expect lower revenue.

GOLDMAN SACHS

—Reports: Tuesday.

—What to watch for: If investors stay nervous over Europe and the global economy, and decide to scale back on trading and investing, then Goldman will be especially vulnerable. Unlike some of its rivals, it doesn't have a large consumer-banking arm to fall back on when investment banking slows. Goldman has been forced to cut jobs and other expenses, and analysts will want details. This should be the second-to-last earnings call for David Viniar, the longtime chief financial officer, who will retire at the end of January.

BANK OF AMERICA

—Reports: Wednesday.

—What to watch for: Bank of America is also slimming down, and trying to put the problems of the financial crisis behind it. □



A Wells Fargo sign is displayed at a branch in New York. The federal government sued Wells Fargo Bank in New York on Tuesday, Oct. 9, 2012, blaming the nation's largest originator of home mortgages for thousands of loan defaults over the last decade. Major U.S. banks including Wells Fargo start reporting third-quarter earnings Friday.

(AP Photo/CX Mafias)

Still, The New York Times reported Thursday that federal authorities are building criminal cases related to the loss. Overall, JPMorgan has weathered the trading loss well; analysts polled by FactSet are expecting higher revenue this quarter.

WELLS FARGO

—Reports: Friday.

—What to watch for: Wells Fargo is the country's biggest mortgage lender, a crown that both hurts and

makes the bank a target for lawsuits and public vitriol when people want someone to blame for the mortgage meltdown.

CITIGROUP

—Reports: Monday.

—What to watch for: After decades of empire-building, Citigroup is slimming down, selling off units to try to become more streamlined and efficient. The results haven't always turned out the way

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Market flatlines, pulled by jobless claims, Europe

CHRISTINA REXRODE

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The market closed roughly flat Thursday, underwhelmed by encouraging jobs news but unrattled by worrisome developments in the global economy.

In the morning, a government report of fewer jobless claims carried the market higher. The Dow Jones industrial average rose as much as 83 points, shrugging off a widening U.S. trade deficit, higher unemployment in Greece and a ratings cut for Spain.

By late afternoon, the rally sputtered, and the Dow wavered between small gains and losses. It closed slightly down, along with the Nasdaq composite index, while the Standard & Poor's 500 eked out the tiniest gain.

Traders, it seemed, were so used to bad news that Thursday's developments didn't really push them one way or the other.

"There's not a lot to move the market today," said Erik Davidson, deputy chief investment officer of Wells Fargo Private Bank in San Francisco. "Everyone's talking about baseball."

Joe Costigan, director of equity research at Bryn Mawr Trust Company in Pennsylvania, described Thursday as "a reasonable day."

"What we're seeing is more of a wave," he said, "not a tide."

The Dow finished down 18.58 points to 13,326.39. The S&P 500 inched up

0.28 point to 1,432.84. The Nasdaq fell 2.37 points to 3,049.41.

The Labor Department said that weekly applications

for unemployment aid fell to their lowest level since February 2008, before the financial crisis, and when the unemployment rate

was much lower — 4.9 percent, compared with today's 7.8 percent.

Citi analysts upgraded U.S. stocks to the equivalent

of buy. The analysts, led by Hasan Tevfik and Robert Buckland, argued that stocks are relatively cheap and that central banks seem likely to take more steps to try to boost the economy.

Still, their report wasn't all cheery, and neither were most of the other economic developments Thursday. "Profits are slowing around the world," the Citi analysts wrote, "and (earnings-per-share) expectations need to be cut further, in our view."

Already this week, the aluminum manufacturer Alcoa kicked off the third-quarter earnings season with a disappointing loss. Thursday, shares of grocery store Safeway slipped more than 3 percent, losing 58 cents to \$15.71, after it reported a lower profit margin. □



A group of veterans listen during a session with one of the employers at a job fair introducing veterans to careers in the security and private investigations industry at Yankee Stadium in the Bronx borough of New York. The number of Americans seeking unemployment aid plummeted the week of Oct. 4, 2012, to seasonally adjusted 339,000, the lowest level in more than four years. The sharp drop offered a hopeful sign that the job market could pick up.

(AP Photo/Tina Fineberg)

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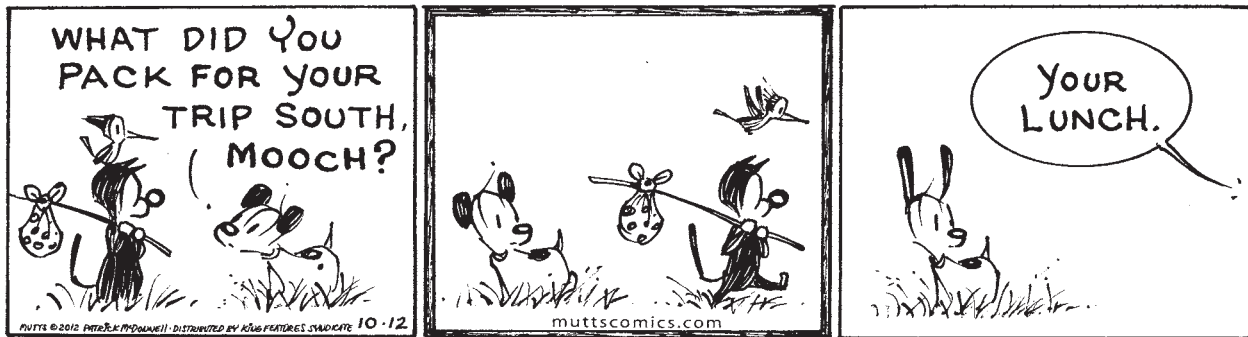
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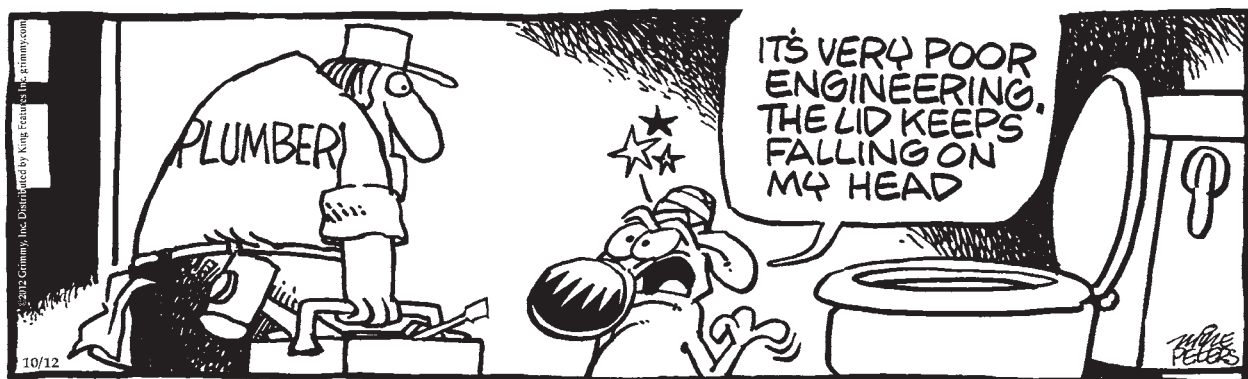
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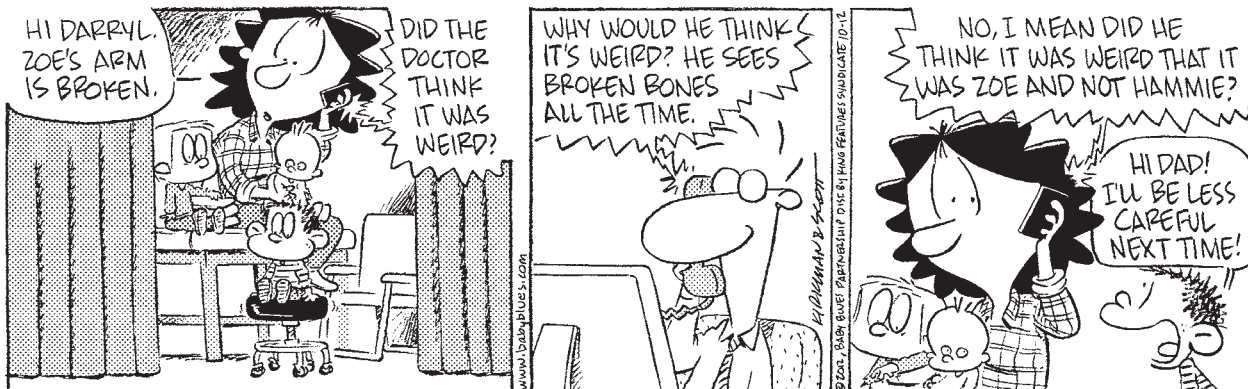
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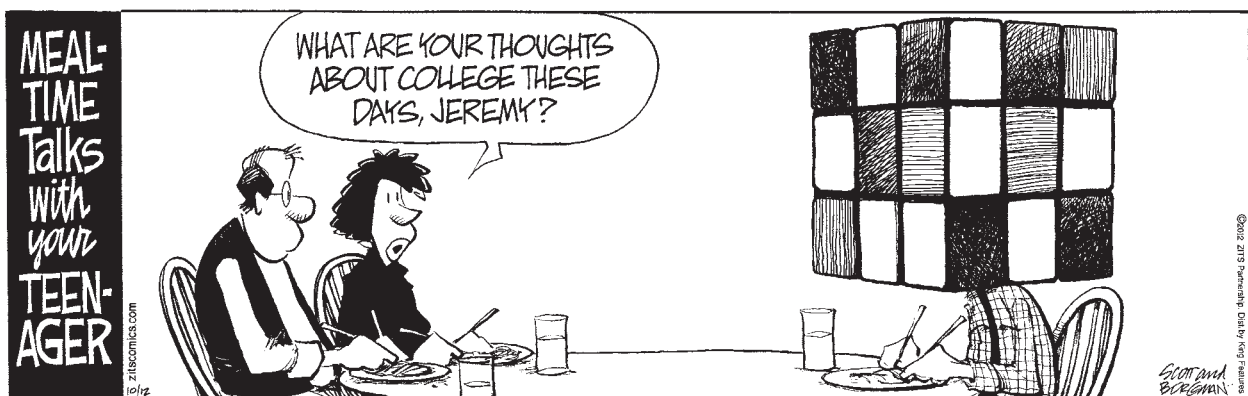
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Baby Blues



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		7				1		
		6		4		3		
9	8						5	2
			7	3	5			
	5						4	
			9	2	4			
4	2						3	7
		9		6		2		
		8				5		

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

10/12

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

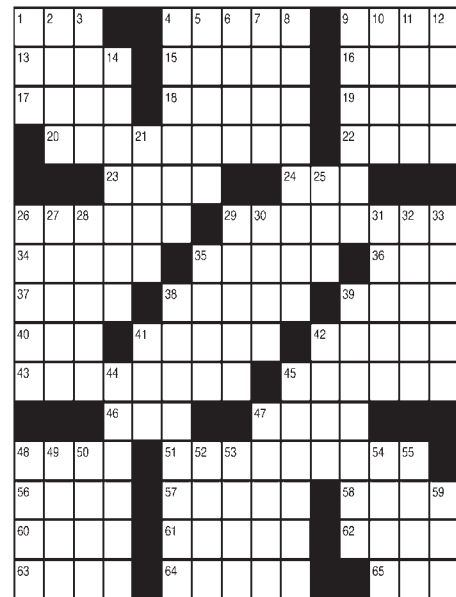
9	6	4	7	3	2	5	1	8
5	1	3	8	9	6	4	7	2
7	2	8	1	4	5	9	3	6
3	5	6	2	7	9	8	4	1
8	9	2	5	1	4	3	6	7
4	7	1	6	8	3	2	9	5
1	4	7	9	5	8	6	2	3
6	8	9	3	2	1	7	5	4
2	3	5	4	6	7	1	8	9

ACROSS

- Easter egg tint
- Phi Beta
- Kind; congenial
- Tiny amount
- Green; scallion
- Hale or Ladd
- Dollop
- Insurance seller
- Row; seedy part of town
- Wisdom
- Without
- Fib teller
- Meadow
- Sends in, as one's payment
- Manufactures
- Put to shame
- Harvests
- Head topper
- IRA; fund for retirement
- Self-confidence
- Passport stamp
- Suffix for exist or depend
- Former U.S. Rep. Dick
- Fight off
- Loaf with caraway seeds
- Minor scuffle
- as a beet
- Final
- Loafer or boot
- Wasted away through lack of use, as a limb
- Albacore or yellowfin
- Treasure discovered
- Insincerely smooth
- Actor Guinness
- External
- Otherwise
- Big celebration
- Marsh grasses
- Expert; pro

DOWN

- Use a shovel
- Egg's center
- British college



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

10/12/12

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

H	I	G	H	M	E	N	U	S	S	C	A	M
A	R	E	A	A	N	I	S	E	L	U	B	E
L	A	N	D	D	E	P	E	N	D	A	B	L
O	N	E	A	R	M	S	O	N	S	E	T	
	R	E	L	A	Y		A	P	T			
S	H	O	A	L	S		D	R	E	S	S	Y
H	A	S	T	Y	P	A	R	T	Y	T	A	D
I	B	I	S	P	A	P	A	S	P	E	R	U
N	I	T	R	E	S	E	T	C	H	A	N	T
	T	Y	R	A	N	T		F	L	I	M	S
		A	D	D		P	E	A	L	S		
O	P	E	R	A		S	L	E	D		H	A
D	E	T	E	R	M	I	N	E	D		L	I
D	A	N	S		A	D	O	B	E		E	P
S	L	A	T		P	O	W	E	R		I	S

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10/12/12

- "You ___ what you eat"
- Go quickly
- ___ of contract; failure to honor one's promise
- Slender candles
- Was crazy about
- Puncture
- Luau dance
- Small bills
- Loyal
- Learn by ___; memorize
- Ms. Fitzgerald
- Record
- Buzzing insect

Real-life meth trade is cracked by 'Breaking Bad'



In this undated file photo released by AMC, Bryan Cranston as Walter White runs for his life during a scene from the AMC drama series "Breaking Bad". The the saga of the fictitious Walter White, a timid-chemistry-teacher-turned-masterful-drug-lord, bears some similarities to recent reports of factory-like "superlabs" in Mexico that are turning out meth with large-scale efficiency. Associated Press

FRAZIER MOORE
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — News of drug cartels mass-producing souped-up methamphetamine — that's the latest word as reported by The Associated Press, and it sounds pretty scary. But haven't we heard this story before? Like on "Breaking Bad," TV's addictive drama series? Take a look at the real-life drug biz. Then compare it to the saga of fictitious Walter White, the timid-chemistry-teacher-turned-masterful-drug-lord of "Breaking Bad." Real life seems to be reflecting art. Or is it the other way around? Just consider ... The product: — Today's newly potent meth has a tell-tale bluish-white color, and it's purer than ever: as high as 88 percent. No wonder! "Shake-and-bake" pushers are deferring to the experts. Recipes have been developed by professional chemists. — Walter White, in his newly assumed alter ego of

Heisenberg, has flooded the market with a product renowned for its distinctive blue color. And acclaimed for its high quality: 99 percent pure. No wonder! Walter is not just a chemistry teacher, but a world-class chemist who never reached his potential — until now. The facility: — Factory-like "superlabs" in Mexico are turning out meth with large-scale efficiency. — Same on "Breaking Bad," although, in keeping the story close to home, the product can proudly claim to be "Made in U.S.A." That is, Walter (played by series star Bryan Cranston) and his maladroitness

tant, Jesse Pinkman (Aaron Paul), have followed the American dream. They started small (cooking meth in meager batches in a battered RV) then graduated to factory proportions in their hometown of Albuquerque, New Mexico. For a time, the duo threw in with Gus Fring, a meth king who had hidden a state-of-the-art meth facility beneath his industrial laundry-processing plant. (This seems to echo the strategy of an underground lab discovered in Mexico equipped with an elevator and ventilation systems as well as cooking and sleeping provisions.) But by this season (whose first half aired this summer),

Fring's lab had been destroyed and Fring eliminated savagely thanks to Walter, who was plotting to solidify his own drug empire. Meanwhile, "Breaking Bad" has acknowledged the existence of large labs cropping up in Mexico. One, run by a major drug cartel, even attempted to impound Jesse Pinkman to apply the Heisenberg knowhow to boost its quality and volume. The distribution: — Large quantities of meth are turning up in American cities, where it was seldom seen in the past. □

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Tel: 584-6440
Alcoholism & Drug Addiction,
Anonymity guaranteed
Foundation Anti-Droga Aruba
(FADA) Tel: 583-2999
Foundation Respetami
Tel: 582-4433
Diabetic Foundation Arubano
Tel: 583-3808
Narcotics Anonymous
Tel: 583-8989
Foundation Amor pa Prohimo
Tel: 583-3354 / 586-6976
Women in Difficulties Foundation
Tel: 583-5400

[illegible]



This image released by AMC shows Andrew Lincoln as Sheriff Rick Grimes in a scene from the season three premiere episode of "The Walking Dead," premiering Sunday at 9p.m. EST on AMC. Associated Press

'The Walking Dead' takes a bite out of pop culture

DERRIK J. LANG
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — In the first five minutes of the third-season premiere of "The Walking Dead," former sheriff's deputy Rick Grimes and his battered and beaten band of zombie apocalypse survivors remain completely speechless. It's a hauntingly stark opening for the popular TV undead drama that no one's been quiet about since it first debuted.

"We meet them after eight months," said Andrew Lincoln, the actor who portrays Rick, sitting alongside Sarah Wayne Callies, who plays Rick's feisty wife, Lori. "There's a huge rift between Rick and Lori. They're desperate. They're more desperate than they've ever been, so much so that in the teaser, no one says a word, and everything is kind of sad."

Everything hasn't been sad for the cast and crew of "The Walking Dead," which has risen from surprising cult hit to unstoppable zombie brand. "The Walking Dead," which is based on the comic book series written by Robert Kirkman, has transformed into a full-fledged franchise featuring a horde of video games, costumes, toys, books and theme park attractions. With just a pair of eight-episode seasons, "The Walking Dead" series amassed a huge following, becoming must-scream-TV on Sunday nights. The show's second-

season finale, which featured the survivors fleeing a farm after being barraged by waves of zombies, corralled 9 million viewers — a basic-cable record among younger audiences.

The success is often lost on the cast, who shoot on location in rural Georgia, away from the ego-enhancing realm of Hollywood. They're reminded of the popularity when confronted by thousands of fans at San Diego's Comic-Con or motivated by the "gasoline" that is fan letters and photos posted inside a makeshift shrine erected in the trailer of actor Norman Reedus (Daryl).

"It's a solid pocket we stay in," said Steven Yeun, who plays nimble Glenn. "I got a glimpse of it today when I was sitting in the hotel room. I looked out from the balcony, and I'm like, 'Where am I?!' We just came from shooting a terrible, gnarly scene in the middle of the woods — just yelling and guttural stuff — and now all of a sudden I'm at the Four Seasons." The third season, which premieres Sunday at 9 p.m. EDT, finds the survivors coming across the too-good-to-be-true town of Woodbury, a zombie-free enclave that's led by a cut-throat character dubbed the Governor. British actor David Morrissey, who was cast as the iconic villain from the comics earlier this year, is downplaying the Governor's "MUHAHAHA!" ruthlessness. □

Tom Hanks to make his Broadway debut next year

MARK KENNEDY
AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Tom Hanks will play a gutsy New York City newspaper columnist when he makes his debut on Broadway in the spring.

Producers of Nora Ephron's play "Lucky Guy" announced Thursday that Hanks will play Mike McAlary in the stage biography. Hanks, a two-time Oscar winner, had been in negotiations for the role when Ephron died this summer. Previews begin March 1 at the Broadhurst Theatre and an opening night is set for April 1.

McAlary, the city's one-time dominant tabloid reporter, got the first interview with Abner Louima, a Haitian immigrant who was sodomized and beaten by white police officers at a station house in 1997. McAlary would win the Pu-



This Sept. 8, 2012 file image released by Stapix shows actor Tom Hanks at the premiere of "Cloud Atlas," at the Toronto International Film Festival in Toronto. Associated Press

litzer Prize the next year but would die of cancer a few months later at age 41. The director of "Lucky Guy" will be George C. Wolfe. In June, lead producer Colin Callender said his team could "think of no more fit-

ting tribute to her extraordinary writing and remarkable body of work" than to proceed with plans to produce Ephron's play.

Hanks is the star of such films as "Splash," "Forrest Gump," "Philadelphia," "Sleepless in Seattle," "Apollo 13" and "Saving Private Ryan."

Ephron, who died June 26 at age 71, gained recognition as the writer of films such as "When Harry Met Sally" and "Sleepless in Seattle," which starred Hanks. McAlary, who worked at both the New York Daily News and The New York Post, has already been the subject of a play — Dan Klores' "The Wood," which opened off-Broadway at the Rattlestick Playwrights Theatre last year. He was said to be the inspiration for the character played by Randy Quaid in Ron Howard's "The Paper." □

Valiant Comics launch 1st 'event' story line



This comic image released by Valiant Entertainment shows an image from X-O Manowar #11. Valiant Comics is promising an explosive new story in the pages of its flagship book, "X-O Manowar." The story begins January with a two-issue prelude in issues 9 and 10. Associated Press.

MATT MOORE
Associated Press
PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Valiant Comics is promising an explosive new story in the pages of its flagship book, "X-O Manowar." It's not hyperbole, said writer Robert Venditti who

outlined details this week of a major story arc in the Valiant universe that will see Aric of Dacia, a 5th century Visigoth now sporting sentient super-powered armor, have his revenge on the Vine, the space-faring race that kidnapped from him Earth.

Turns out Aric is not exactly happy to find himself returned to earth some 1,600 years later, his beloved dead, his people gone and his goal of sacking the city of Rome forever out of his reach.

That's left him with some serious anger issues and it's the Vine home world that will bear the brunt of not just his resentment but the firepower of the X-O Manowar suit, too that he wears.

"Aric, he was taken captive and was aboard a slave ship for all these years and had this burning hatred for Rome," said Venditti, who

has helmed the writing duties on the book since its launch earlier this year.

Now, with Rome no longer the power it was and Aric adrift, he's seeking revenge on the Vine.

"A lot of people might say 'How does one person take on a planet?'" asked Venditti. "The armor yields so much power. And he's going to discover something about it that takes it beyond something that anyone could have conceived."

The story begins in January with a two-issue prelude in issues 9 and 10 with art by Trevor Harisne that sees a figure from Aric's past show up on earth with his own class of lesser, but still lethal armor, and under the control of the Vine.

That prelude, in turn, will be followed by a four-part arc that has Aric attacking the Vine home world in issue 11. □

Octavia Spencer writing books for middle schoolers

NEW YORK (AP) — Oscar winner Octavia Spencer is looking to make some magic in the book world. The actress best known for "The Help" has a deal with Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers for a pair of detective novels for middle school students. Simon & Schuster announced Thursday that the first book, "Randi Rhodes, Ninja Detective: The Case of the Time-Capsule Bandit," will come out next fall. Spencer said in a statement that she had been inspired by such mystery series as Nancy Drew and Encyclopedia Brown and hoped to give kids the same "sense of magic."

Spencer, 42, has also appeared in such films as "Flypaper" and the upcoming "Smashed." □



This Sept. 12, 2012 file photo shows actress Octavia Spencer, a cast member in the film "Smashed," posing for a portrait at the 2012 Toronto Film Festival in Toronto.

Associated Press

Actress who starred in 'Bad News Bears' killed

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Sammi Kane Kraft, whose baseball skills earned her the role of a youth league pitcher in the 2005 remake of "The Bad News Bears," has died in a Los Angeles car crash. She was 20.

The Los Angeles Times says Kraft was a passenger in an Audi that rear-ended a big rig and was struck by another car at about 1:30 a.m. Tuesday on Interstate 10.

Her brother, Frankie Kane, tells the Times that Kane was pronounced dead at a hospital.

The California Highway Patrol says the Audi's driver was treated for moderate injuries and arrested on suspicion of drunken driving.



This July 18, 2005 file photo shows actress Sammi Kraft arriving for the premiere of the Paramount feature "The Bad News Bears" at the Ziegfeld Theatre in New York.

Associated Press

Kraft was 13 when she was discovered on an LA baseball diamond and cast in her only film. She played the role originated by Tatum O'Neal in 1976. □

NYC Museum of Modern Art to feature garage sale

NEW YORK (AP) — A garage sale as performance art? That's what one artist will be staging at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. Visitors will be able to rummage through and buy such classic garage sale

items as used clothing, books, mementos and other bric-a-brac.

The stuff will be donated by the artist, Martha Rosler, her family, friends, the general public and museum staff. □



In this Aug. 5, 2012 file photo, Jack White, center, performs at Lollapalooza in Chicago's Grant Park. At the Austin City Limits Music Festival, about a third of the nearly 130 bands on a lineup that includes the Red Hot Chili Peppers, the Black Keys and Jack White will have their sets broadcast on YouTube. That's a record for the three-day festival that starts Friday, Oct. 12, 2012.

Associated Press

Live-streaming goes mainstream at music festivals

PAUL J. WEBER

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Music festivals are booming, and so is one alternative to paying soaring ticket prices to spend a long weekend packed among 50,000 or more typically sweaty concertgoers: watching the performances online for free.

At the Austin City Limits Music Festival, about a third of the nearly 130 bands on a lineup that includes the Red Hot Chili Peppers, the Black Keys and Jack White will have their sets broadcast on YouTube. That's a record for the three-day festival that starts Friday. Just six years ago organizers began webcasting with a single feed and struggled to persuade artists to even participate.

The same was once true at trendsetters like Bonnaroo and Lollapalooza. But as Austin City Limits marks the unofficial end of the big-festival calendar in the U.S. for 2012, this year might also go down as the year when live-streams started crossing into mainstream. Take the year's most talked-about performance: Tupac Shakur rising from the dead as a hologram at the Coachella Valley

Music and Arts Festival in a resurrection that was live-streamed from the California desert and talked about around the world.

The rock band Delta Spirit will be among the first acts up on Austin City Limits' YouTube channel.

"It's never going to equal seeing it live. But it's cool that it engages more people," Delta Spirit lead singer Matt Vasquez said. "We're a generation of content, aren't we? We love to fill up our days with as little space as possible."

Promoters aren't trying to sell live-streaming as a substitute for the you-had-to-be-there experience of concerts.

Especially since, in many cases, you still very much have to be there to catch some of the biggest headliners: Neil Young & Crazy Horse and Weezer are among the performers in Austin this weekend whose sets won't be broadcast on the Web.

Nor do live-streams pose any threat to attendance or profits. Three-day passes for Austin City Limits this year ran for \$200 and sold out within an hour of the day the full lineup was announced.

But festival live-streaming

has come a long way in a short time, even by technology standards. Organizers of the country's biggest music festivals declined to reveal the size of their online audiences. But at C3 Presents, which puts on Lollapalooza and Austin City Limits, the number of live-stream viewers has climbed into the "high millions," said Courtney Trucksess, director of sponsorship.

At Bonnaroo, which began live-streaming around the same time as Austin City Limits, there's been a "big increase" in views and the amount of time each user spends watching, said Jonathan Mayers, co-founder of Superfly Presents, which produces the four-day Tennessee festival.

"We've seen the average view time is over an hour in one sitting," said Chris Roach, head of business development for AEG Digital Media, which has produced live-streaming for Coachella and other open-air concerts. "That's a pretty engaged eyeball for an advertiser to put their dollar against."

Little fanfare surrounded webcasts when Bonnaroo and Austin City Limits began experimenting with it in 2006. □

Buying The Election?



JOE NOCERA
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Do you remember that moment in the first Austin Powers movie when Dr. Evil, back in action after being cryogenically frozen for 30 years, gets his hands on a nuclear warhead? "If you want it back," he snarls to a group of world leaders who have gathered in a secret U.N. bunker, "you will have to pay me" – here he pauses for dramatic effect – "one million dollars!" The assembled leaders burst into laughter because it was such a pathetically small sum.

Campaign finance these days reminds me a lot of that scene. I lived for a few years in Washington, right around the time that Congress, aroused by the Watergate scandal, was reforming the country's campaign finance laws. It instituted a system for presidential elections that combined small contributions from individuals (\$1,000 or less), public financing from the taxpayers and a cap on how much the candidates could spend. In the Gerald Ford-Jimmy Carter year of 1976, the two candidates were allowed to spend – can we pause here for dramatic effect? – around \$35 million each.

Fast forward 36 years, to last weekend's news that the Obama campaign had raised \$181 million in just one month, September. Not all that long ago, the ability to partake of public financing was a sign that you had arrived as a serious candidate; today no candidate in his right mind would want to be so constrained.

Four years ago, Barack Obama became the first presidential candidate since campaign reform was instituted to opt out of public financing for the general election. He raised \$750 million. John McCain, who accepted public financing, was only able to directly spend the \$84 million or so he was allotted under the system (although the Republican Party raised millions more). This election season, Mitt Romney and Obama could end up spending more than \$1 billion each. They seem to spend more time fundraising than pressing the flesh with voters. According to Brendan Doherty, a political science professor at the U.S. Naval Academy, Obama has held six fundraisers in a single day. Twice. And that doesn't even account for what's truly different about this election: the rise of the super PACs and 501(c)4s, which are essentially a form of

campaign money-laundering, allowing wealthy people to contribute millions toward supposedly "independent" spending on campaign advertising, polling and other expensive campaign goodies. Sheldon Adelson, the casino mogul, whose main political interest appears to be Israel, has pumped \$10 million into Restore Our Future, the biggest Republican super PAC. Although individual contributions to a particular candidate remain severely restricted – no more than \$5,000 – the amount someone can pour into a super PAC is limitless. The means by which the country finances its campaigns is utterly broken. In a recent cover story in *The Atlantic*, James Bennet, the editor, traces how that happened. He focuses on a man named Jim Bopp Jr., a lawyer from Terre Haute, Ind., who has largely devoted his life to freeing the nation of campaign spending limits. To him – and, indeed, to the majority of the current Supreme Court, in the *Citizens United* case – limits on political spending are a violation of the First Amendment. What is astonishing is the way Bopp makes unlimited spending seem actually democratic. "Most people don't even know who their congressman is," Bopp tells Bennet. If there were more spending on campaigns, voters would be more educated about the candidates. The Supreme Court majority, meanwhile, has essentially said that, by definition, campaign spending that is independent of the candidate cannot be corrupting.

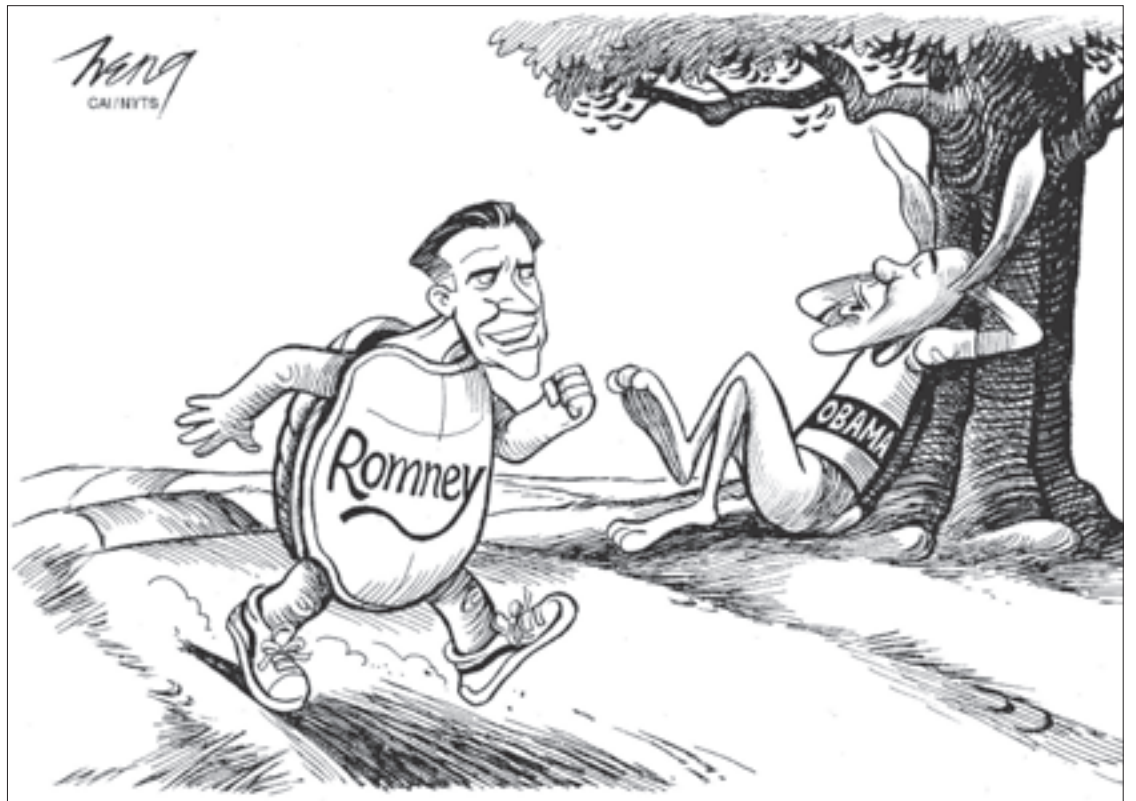
But, of course, what we are learning in the real world is that super PACs and 501(c)4s are hardly independent. Karl Rove, who absolutely knows what the Romney campaign needs at any given moment, runs the most important of the Republican super PACs. Rahm Emanuel, the mayor of Chicago and Obama's first chief of staff, is helping to raise money for a Democratic super PAC.

What we also know in the real world is that unlimited spending will not serve to enlighten voters. It will deaden them to political argument – as is happening in just about every swing state, where the ads are running with such frequency that people are tuning them out. Finally, we know from hard experience that the money that comes into politics has the potential to corrupt.

In Congress we see it every day. A congressman gets on an important committee, begins to raise money from the companies that care about the committee's issues – and, suddenly, the congressman is writing legislation the company wants.

What feels different now is that the sums are so large and that they have the potential to influence not just congressional and Senate candidates but the presidential candidates as well. If Romney wins, will he really be willing to take a position on Israel that is different from Adelson's? One suspects not.

"This can't be good for Democracy," Bennet told me in an email. It's not. □



Barry Trails Off . . .



MAUREEN DOWD
© 2012 New York Times

President Barack Obama likes to be alone.

When he speaks at rallies, he doesn't want the stage cluttered with other officeholders. When he rides in his limo, he isn't prone to give local pols a lift. He wants to feel that he doesn't owe his ascension to anyone else – not a rich daddy, not a spouse or father who was president, not even those who helped at pivotal moments. He believes he could do any job in his White House or campaign, from speechwriter to policy director, better than those holding the jobs.

So Obama knows that he alone is responsible for his unfathomable retreat into his own head while nearly 70 million people watched. He hadn't been nailing it in debate prep either, taking a break to visit the Hoover Dam, and worried aides knew his head wasn't in it. When the president realized what a dud he was, he apologized to flummoxed and irritated advisers.

Once during the 2008 campaign, reading about all the cataclysms jolting the economy and the world, Obama joked to an adviser: "Maybe I should throw the game." This time, he actually threw the game. And shaved points right off his poll ratings. The president is good at analyzing the

psychology of other world leaders, and he wrote an acclaimed memoir about his long, lonely odyssey of self-discovery. But he doesn't always do a good job at analyzing his own psychology to avoid self-destructive patterns.

David Maraniss, who wrote biographies of Bill Clinton and Obama, said that both men had recurring themes. Clinton would plant "the seeds of his own undoing" and then "find a way to recover." Obama's personality, Maraniss said, was shaped by his desire to avoid traps created by his unusual family and geographical backgrounds, and the trap of race in America.

"It helped explain his caution, his tendency to hold back and survey life like a chessboard, looking for where he might get checkmated," Maraniss wrote in the book, "Barack Obama: The Story," adding that it also made Obama seek to transcend confrontation.

While Mitt Romney did a great job of conjuring a less off-putting and hard-right Romney, Obama walked into a trap of his own devising.

It was a perfect psychological storm for the president. He performs better when his back is against the wall; he has some subconscious need to put himself in challenging positions. That makes it hard for him to surmount success and intensity; he just suddenly runs out of gas and stops fighting, leaving revved up supporters confused and deflated.

"That's just his rhythm," said one adviser. Because Obama doesn't relish confrontation, he often fails to pin his opponents on the mat the first time he gets the chance; instead, perversely, he pulls back and allows foes to gain oxygen. It happened with Hillary in New Hampshire and Texas and with Republicans in the health care and debt-ceiling debates. Just as Obama let the tea party inflate in the summer of 2009, spreading

a phony narrative about "death panels," now he has let Romney inflate and spread a phony narrative about moderation and tax math.

Even though Obama was urged not to show his pompous side, he arrived at the podium cloaked in layers of disdain: a disdain for debates, which he regards as shams; a venue, as the Carter White House adviser Gerry Rafshoon puts it, where "people prefer a good liar to a bad performer."

Obama feels: Seriously? After all he did mopping up Republican chaos, does he really have to spend weeks practicing a canned zinger? Should the man who killed Osama bin Laden and personally reviews drone strikes have to put on a show of macho swagger?

Plus, he's filled with disdain for Romney, seeing him as the ultimate slick boardroom guy born on third base trying to peddle money-making deals. Surely everyone sees through this con man?

Just as Poppy Bush didn't try as hard as he should have because he assumed voters would reject Slick Willie, Obama lapsed into not trying because he assumed voters would reject Cayman Mitt. The president averted his eyes as glittering opportunities passed, even when Romney sent a lob his way with a reference to his accountant.

Obama has been coddled by Valerie Jarrett, the adviser who sat next to Michelle at the debate, instead of the more politically strategic choice of local pols and their spouses. Jarrett believes that everyone must woo the prodigy who deigns to guide us, not the other way around.

At a fundraising concert in San Francisco Monday night, the president mocked Romney's star turn, saying "what was being presented wasn't leadership; that's salesmanship." □

America's slippery slope into Britishisms

ALEX WILLIAMS

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Mitt Romney is not the "bumbling toff" he's made out to be, wrote Daniel Gross, an American journalist, in a recent Daily Beast article. The latest iPad is a "lovely piece of kit," in the words of John Scalzi, an American science-fiction author writing in his blog, Whatever. The Chicago Bulls were mired in uncertainty less than a "fortnight" after their star player Derrick Rose went down with a knee injury, according to an article in The Daily Herald, a suburban Chicago newspaper, last spring.

Crikey, Britishisms are everywhere. Call it Anglo-creep. Call it annoying. Snippets of British vernacular – "cheers" as a greeting, "brilliant" as an affirmative, "loo" as a bathroom – that were until recently as rare as steak and kidney pie on these shores are cropping up in the daily speech of Americans (particularly, New Yorkers) of the taste-making set who often have no more direct tie to Britain than an affinity for "Downton Abbey."

The next time an American "mate" asks you to "ring" her on her "mobile" about renting your "flat" during your "holiday," it's fair to ask, have we all become Madonna?

This star-spangled burst of Anglophonia has "established itself as this linguistic phenomenon that shows no sign of abating," said Ben Yagoda, a professor of English at the University of Delaware, who last year started "Not One-Off Britishisms," a repository of such verbal nonnative species, like those above, culled from the American media. "The 21st century 'chattering classes' – which in itself is a Britishism – are the most significant perpetrators of this trend," he added.

Perhaps it is a reflection of a larger cultural shift. Arguably, the distance between Britain and the United States (please, not the Pond) is as small as it has ever been. In an age

of BBC livestreams and borderless websites, Americans track the Middletons in near-real time via British gossip sites, absorb the Queen's English through televised imports like "Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares"

because of those country's fashion weeks," said Peter Davis, the American-born editor of Scene, a New York society magazine. In an industry where British-born editors like Anna Wintour, Glenda Bailey and

But borrowing from the Mother Tongue can be a slippery slope into absurdity, said David Coggins, a writer who lives in the West Village. "You find yourself calling your friends 'lads,' which is generally accept-

erwise known as "beer."

The articles cited examples from Not One-Off Britishisms, where Yagoda (a New York Times contributor) often charts the popularity of terms using Google's Ngram Viewer, which tracks the appearance of words or phrases year by year in millions of books. When rendered in graph form, certain British phrases, like "have a look" instead of the standard American "take a look," look like the Nasdaq charts for a hot Internet stock.

But Yagoda is not the only academic to study this Anglo-American cross-pollination as a hobby. Lynne Murphy, a linguist at the University of Sussex in England, nominates a British-to-American "Word of the Year" (recent winners include "kettling," meaning to corral a crowd, and "ginger," for redhead) in her blog, Separated by a Common Language. She generally notices the tendency among Northeastern media types. Indeed, for them, conspicuous displays of Transatlantic flourish provide a subtle professional and social benefit.

But often something gets lost in the translation. For example, there's "chat up," which she said, "means 'flirting with intention to bed' here, but is used in the U.S. to mean 'talk to.'"

This is a contemporary tic with deep roots, of course. Americans do, after all, speak English (although some Britons might disagree). British phrases have been wafting across the Atlantic since tricorne hats were the rage, as have British books and, in recent decades, TV shows and pop records. But rarely did the cultural imports make a noticeable impact on the way we talked – aside, of course, from a tiny population of hardened Anglophiles, as well as the Monty Python fans who just couldn't stop quoting the "Spanish Inquisition" sketch in terrible public-school accents. □



Britishisms are everywhere. Call it Anglocreep, or call it annoying, but snippets of British vernacular – "cheers" as a greeting, "brilliant" as an affirmative, "loo" as a bathroom – that were until recently as rare as kidney pie, are cropping up in the daily speech of Americans.

(Adam McCauley/The New York Times)

and "Doctor Who," and take in newspapers like The Guardian, now considered must-reads for many Northeast Corridor influencers, via their iPad apps over "a coffee."

Or maybe it's just pretension, an instance of long-simmering Anglophilia among the American striver classes bubbling over into full-fledged imitation – or in the view of British observers, parody.

"I'm getting sick of my investment banking clients saying 'cheers' to me," said Euan Rellie, a socially prominent British-born finance executive in New York. "Americans say 'cheers' like Dick Van Dyke in 'Mary Poppins,' with too much enthusiasm. It must be delivered laconically." Predictably, people who traffic in trends for a living seem most susceptible.

"Fashion people live to sound British, the same way they over-pronounce French and Italian words

Joanna Coles set the tone, ambitious underlings trying to sound front row "use Brit-speak to sound, well, more 'posh.'"

"I have heard people who grew up far from London uttering that a runway collection was 'brilliant' or just 'bril,'" he added.

And, Davis said, "Fashion editors worry they will get 'sacked' if their next issue or story is 'rubbish' and not 'clever' enough."

Some phrases that were rarely heard five or 10 years ago suddenly seem ubiquitous. The absolving term "no worries" (a keystone of the Australian patois, but apparently British in origin, according to Yagoda) has all but replaced "no problem" for smart-set Americans under 40. This is the same bunch who has started saying "queue" instead of "line" and describing malfunctioning electronic devices (as opposed to health care debates on Capitol Hill) as "wonky."

ed," said Coggins, 36. "The next thing you know, you're calling them 'chaps,' which they might loosely tolerate. And then you say 'tallyho' and you're greeted with a blank stare." Cobi Levy, a New York restaurateur, said he often finds himself lapsing into Cockney rhyming slang, saying "all gone Pete Tong" (a reference to the BBC disc jockey) instead of "gone wrong." "I'm sure it's ridiculous, but I don't do it consciously," said Levy, 36, who grew up in San Francisco. "Five of my best friends are Londoners."

This outburst of Brit-envy has not gone unnoticed in Britain. The Guardian, The Telegraph and the BBC website have all weighed in in recent weeks to poke fun at such linguistic shoplifting, as did the tabloid Sun, known for its Page 3 girls, which included a Yank-baiting photo showing a stereotypical ugly American with a gold chain and a Hawaiian shirt, slurping a can of lager, oth-